Research Report

Summaries of Research Reports

Volume VI

1988 - 1990

Northern Alberta Development Council

March, 1991

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SUMMARIES OF RESEARCH REPORTS

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Introduction

The Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC) uses various methods to allow northern Albertans to express ideas and concerns regarding development of the north. As well as public forums and major conferences, Council carries out relevant, practical research to provide data for recommendations to the Alberta government.

During 1988-90, Council sponsored or co-sponsored 26 studies encompassing a wide range of topics. This report contains summaries of studies completed during those two years. Each executive summary has a similar format, including discussions under each of the following areas:

- Background and purpose
- Objectives
- Methodology
- Principal findings
- Conclusions and recommendations

Report authors are named on the summary title pages. Summaries are written by Northern Development Branch staff and not by the authors of the reports. Errors or alterations are the responsibility of the Branch. Summaries, by their very nature, are unable to capture the context, dynamism and detail of the complete reports. Readers are encouraged to consult specific studies for expanded information.

Topics covered in this volume are diverse. Research projects sponsored by Council are often a reflection of long-term goals and priorities for northern development. Some projects originated in briefs submitted by private citizens during Council's bi-monthly meetings held throughout northern Alberta. Other projects arose from recommendations following NADC-sponsored seminars and conferences. Resolutions adopted by the NADC after months of meetings and discussions on a particular topic evoked other projects.

The following additional points may assist the reader:

- The NADC is inclined toward action-oriented and problem-oriented research. For Council, research is not an end in itself, but a means rather of promoting improvement in quality-of-life for northern Albertans.
- All the research in this report was sponsored directly or indirectly by the NADC or its secretariat, the Northern Development Branch. Some projects were completed by Branch staff, while others were contracted out to private sector consultant firms. The decision to use external consultants as opposed to in-house researchers is related to the purpose of the project and time constraints on the Northern Development Branch.
- Over the years, the Northern Alberta Development Council has listened to northerners through a variety of media. A recurrent message Council hears is that as much information as possible should be made public. This is particularly true when northerners give of their time and energy to participate in committee or research work.

- The NADC is aware of concerns arising from research. A major Research Review Seminar sponsored by Council in June, 1981, addressed a number of these including information dissemination, action on results, community reaction to 'yet another study,' and possible concerns of government agencies. The document, Guidelines for Research in Northern Alberta, addresses many of these topics.

Executive summaries of research projects are available in six volumes:

Volume I:	1975-79
Volume II:	1980-82
Volume III:	1983-84
Volume IV:	1984-85
Volume V:	1986-87
Volume VI:	1988-90

As well, an index of research is available which lists all projects sponsored or co-sponsored by the NADC from 1975 to 1990.

Please direct requests for the index, summaries, or any reports to:

Northern Alberta Development Council
Bag 900-14
Peace River, Alberta
T8S 1T4
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The following is a summary prepared by the Northern Development Branch on

Health Care Connection - 1990: Northern Enhancement Project

Written by: Bule Management Consulting

December, 1990

Sponsored by: Northern Alberta Development Council
Canada/Alberta Northern Development Agreement

Background and Purpose

The 'Northern Enhancement Project' to the Health Care Connection-1990 is designed to enhance community, student, professional and public awareness of this recruitment event. This emphasis on health care recruitment needs of northern communities is the direct result of the development of the Health Care Connection.

The Connection was initiated in 1983 by the Northern Alberta Development Council in an effort to attract physicians to northern communities. Demands of northern communities and the problems associated with recruitment and retention of health care professionals in these locations warranted the additional support and assistance provided by the Northern Enhancement Project.

Funds were made available through the Canada/Alberta Northern Development Agreement to hire Bule Management Consulting to promote the event at the community level in northern Alberta, the student level on campuses and hospitals in Edmonton, and to design and implement a major media awareness and advertising campaign directed at qualified health care professionals.

Objectives

The objectives for the Health Care Connection-1990 were:

i. to maintain a high level of northern hospital/community participation at the Health Care Connection (minimum of 70%)

ii. to maintain/increase the number of students attending with a view to improving the student mix, i.e., a higher percentage of nursing students

iii. to expose northern hospitals/communities to experienced health care professionals who wish to explore rural career opportunities

iv. to attract a minimum of 100 experienced health care professionals to this event.

Methodology

The Health Care Connection-1990 was based on the following:

- The "Student Connection": open only to students from selected health care programs. This event is part of a long-term recruitment strategy and is not designed to fill immediate vacancies, since the target population is students.

- The student population offers an opportunity for employers and community representatives. Students are an ongoing recruitment base.

- The "Professional Connection": geared to the currently employed or job-ready. This event is offered to assist communities with short-term recruitment needs. Employers with immediate vacancies benefit most. Other employers get valuable exposure to potential employees.

- The same health care professionals were invited to both the Student and the Professional Connection. Students and professionals invited were from: medicine, nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, pharmacy, dentistry, social work, dental hygiene, educational psychology (M. Ed.), EMT-Paramedics, and psychiatric nursing.

Principal Findings

Both events were successful. The "Student Connection" gave employers and representatives from 40 communities an opportunity to 'connect' with 483 students enroled in the selected health care programs. Attendance for the Student Connection was at an all time high of 581 people. Most employers and community representatives stayed to meet with 257 qualified health care professionals during the "Professional Connection" (367 attended this event).

The participation rate of northern communities has remained high. In 1990, 19 out of 27 (70%) northern communities with hospitals participated.

Fifty-six booths were sold for the "Student Connection" and 52 for the "Professional Connection". Of these, northern communities and agencies accounted for 39 spaces (70%) for the "Student Connection" and 33 (63%) for the "Professional Connection".

The "Student Connection - 1990" drew 483 students of the 2187 who were invited from specific faculties. This was an attendance rate of 22%.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Health Care Connection has become an important part of many rural health care recruitment strategies. The introduction of the "Professional Connection" as a supplement to the already successful "Student Connection" provided these employers with an event to address both short-term and long-term recruitment needs.

The planning committee has reviewed the event in conjunction with the surveys of students, communities and informal discussions with professionals who attended and makes the following recommendations:

The Event:

- The Health Care Connection should continue.
- Participants should complete an annual survey.
- The Health Care Connection should continue to be a 'student' event as well as a 'professional' event.
- Community, student and public awareness must be sustained.
- The Health Care Connection should continue to strive for self-sufficiency.

The Time:

- The event should continue to be held in late September or early October.

The Hours:

- Hours of both the student and professional connection should be shortened.

Communities in Attendance:

- Communities should be asked to make a commitment to attend by pre-registering in the spring.

Information Presented by Communities:

- All employers/communities attending should post the positions they have available at the event.

Number of Professions Invited:

- Professions invited should reflect needs of employers.

The following is a summary prepared by the Northern Development Branch on

Wapiti Multi-Municipal Initiative

Written by: UMA Engineering Ltd.

December, 1990

Sponsored by: City of Grande Prairie
Town of Sexsmith
County #1 Grande Prairie
Alberta Transportation & Utilities
Northern Alberta Development Council

Background and Purpose

In 1989, the Town of Sexsmith studied its short-term and long-term water supply alternatives. The concerns and requirements of the Hamlet of Clairmont and the City of Grande Prairie were not included in the terms of reference of the Sexsmith study. The purpose of the Wapiti Multi-Municipal Utilities Initiative, which involves the City of Grande Prairie, is to investigate the feasibility of an integrated water system. UMA Engineering Ltd. was engaged to conduct this study.

Objectives

The major objectives of the study were:

i. to determine the alternatives and end-user costs for a multi-municipal water system

ii. to use the study findings as a municipal decision-making tool with regard to pursuing a regional utilities system for the area

iii. to use the study as justification for a potential application for funding.

Methodology

Data were received and compiled from: Town of Sexsmith, South Peace Regional Planning Commission, County of Grande Prairie No.1, City of Grande Prairie, and Hamlet of Clairmont.

Principal Findings

An alternative no.1 concept for water supply to Sexsmith from new wells in the Kleskun Lade Aquifer had been investigated. The pipe has capacity for the year 2040 maximum day demand including a surcharge of 20% of this demand to account for unexpected industrial expansion.

The capital cost of this alternative is $2,120,000. The supply costs to water users for 1990 would range from $0.169 per cubic metre (90% grant) to $0.501 (base grant). Corresponding residential monthly charges would have to range from $14.00 to $25.00 compared to the current $15.00. Commercial and Industrial rates would have to reflect the same degree of change (from a decrease of 6.7% to an increase of 67%).

An alternative no.2 concept for water supply (regional pipeline from Grande Prairie to Sexsmith and Clairmont) has been investigated. A 250 mm pipeline has been selected with the recommended proposed pipeline to be connected to the Grande Prairie underground reservoir.

The capital cost of this alternative is $2,484,360. The pipeline serving Sexsmith alone would result in 1990 supply costs ranging from $0.565 per cubic metre (90% grant and water purchase costs from Grande Prairie of $0.40 per cubic metre) to $1.46 per cubic metre (available grant and water purchases of $0.83 per cubic metre). Corresponding user rates would vary from $27.00 to 56.00 per month, representing increases from 80% to 273% over current Sexsmith rates.

The pipeline serving Clairmont and Sexsmith would result in 1990 supply costs ranging from $0.543 per cubic metre to $1.34. Corresponding Sexsmith user rates would vary from $26.00 to $52.00 per month, representing increases of from 73% to 246% over current Sexsmith rates. Unit supply costs would be the same for Clairmont ($0.543 to $1.345 per cubic metre) to which Clairmont distribution costs would have to be added to arrive at user rates.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Kleskun Lake water supply (alternative 1) costs are the lowest of all the alternatives. There is concern, however, on the long-term reliability of the well supply and the interference with other well users in the area. Of the regional system alternatives, only the 90% grant and $0.40 per cubic metre water purchase rates would permit a user rate increase of less than 80% to Sexsmith and/or Clairmont.

A water supply system for the Wapiti Multi-Municipal Initiative should:

- provide an adequate quantity of water to meet present and future, residential and industrial requirements
- provide water of suitable quality that meets or exceeds Canadian drinking water standards.
- Keep net water system costs within reasonable limits to provide water rates within the provincial norm.

A regional pipeline concept servicing Sexsmith and Clairmont will provide adequate quantities of safe water; however, the system costs are higher than normal. The following steps should be taken to provide for a multi-municipal water utility:

- Review grant availability in detail with the Alberta Government with special consideration given to supply deficiencies at Sexsmith, special requirements of ATCLL and overall costs of the system.
- Review alternatives with the City of Grande Prairie to keep the water supply rate at the lowest possible level. This may include limiting peak pumping rates.
- Once grants and water supply rates are finalized, meet with systems users to review projected rates and determine the acceptability prior to proceeding.
- Review ownership and operation alternatives, and select one that provides favorable water rates and addresses the debt considerations of the municipalities.
- Proceed with implementation of the system, including the following concerns:
    - Finalize utility ownership, operation and agreements.
    - Do preliminary engineering including land acquisition, surveys, soils and updated costs.
    - Do final design and tendering.
    - Construct the system.
    - Commission.

The following is a summary prepared by the Northern Development Branch on

Northern Perspectives Video

Produced by: Tinsel Media Productions Ltd.

November, 1990

Sponsored by: Northern Alberta Development Council

Background and Purpose

The NADC sponsored the "Northern Perspectives" conference in Grande Prairie on November 21, 22 and 23 of 1990. The conference allowed for northerners to discuss development issues within the themes of:

- The Environment and Economy
- Northern Quality of Life

Tinsel Media Productions Ltd. was commissioned to produce a slide tape presentation for the opening of the conference. After the conference, the slide tape was converted into a video format.

Objectives

The objectives of this production were:

i. to deliver a message that set the themes of the conference

ii. to increase awareness of northern attributes, opportunities and challenges

iii. to reflect the importance of northerners' roles in the development of northern Alberta

iv. to later become a video to be used for a variety of purposes.

Methodology

Data were obtained from many sources including the following NADC reports:

- Northern Alberta Today
- Trends in Northern Alberta
- Opportunities for Health Care Professionals in Northern Alberta
- Economic Development Opportunities in Northern Alberta

Principal Findings/Key Points

The video opens with a montage of northern Alberta scenes, people from the four primary interest sectors of oil and gas, forestry, agriculture and tourism. Narration discusses the spirit and perseverance of northern Alberta's people.

The program continues with geographic, historical and statistical elements of Northern Alberta. The narration leads back into a brief understanding of the north's history, its settlement and development, while showing archival images.

The main body of the video deals with the three main themes of the Northern Perspectives Conference: economic development and the environment, the modernization of northern Alberta, and the people and communities of northern Alberta. These three themes are related to the oil and gas industry, forestry development, growth of the agriculture sector and tourism initiatives.

The concluding section returns to a montage style with shots of oil sands development, forest industry, farming, young people in school classes and northerners in various settings. Closing comments on the future of Northern Alberta, its vast resources, its development potential, and the goal of sound environmental management are the thoughts and images that challenge the audience as the program ends.

Conclusions

This is an informative and enlightening video. It was well received at the conference and is now used by various community bodies for educational, informative and promotional endeavors.

The following is a summary prepared by the Northern Development Branch on

Northern Perspectives Pre-Conference Report

Written by: Scott & Fenrich Consultants Incorporated

in conjunction with

Northern Development Branch

March, 1989

Sponsored by: Northern Alberta Development Council

Background and Purpose

The Northern Perspectives Conference held in Grande Prairie on November 21-23, 1990 discussed what balanced northern development means in the 1990s. The conference goal was to help the NADC prepare a set of principles and recommendations capable of balancing environmental, economic and social development objectives. The conference featured panel discussions and workshops which gave delegates new insights to northern development, while providing ample opportunity for feedback and discussion.

Objectives

The objective of the report is two-fold:

i. to highlight key development issues to be addressed by delegates attending the Northern Perspectives Conference

ii. to identify major challenges facing northern Alberta in the '90s.

Methodology

Two principle sources of information were used. A review of briefs presented to the NADC during the 1980s provided a historical context for discussing current development issues. This information was supplemented by findings from the Northern Perspectives Survey conducted during the summer of 1990. The Survey addressed what community leaders see as the key development priorities facing the north. Survey results were compiled and coded by Market Trends of Vancouver under the direction of Scott & Fenrich Consultants Incorporated of Edmonton. The analysis of NADC briefs was carried out by staff of the Northern Development Branch in Peace River.

Principal Findings

Community leaders in the Northern Perspectives Survey believe northern development should proceed in a manner that:

- preserves the lifestyle of northern communities
- maintains traditional economic sectors while supporting new industries
- provides for an adequate level of human services
- ensures the long-term integrity of the environment.

By their nature, many of the objectives are in conflict with one another. For example, development of new industries, such as tourism or forestry, may adversely affect lifestyles. Similarly, large industrial projects may have a negative impact on the northern environment.

For northerners to achieve their development objectives, they must balance their interests in a variety of areas. There is no single view of development which can be generalized for all northerners.

The Northern Perspectives Survey also asked respondents to provide their own definition of what balanced development means in the 1990s. The majority of survey responses fell into the following categories:

- Development must occur in full consideration of the needs and directions of northern communities.
- Development must proceed in full consultation with the communities which it most affects.
- Development should proceed in an environmentally sensitive way. In this case, environment is broadly defined to include the physical as well as the social environment.
- Strategic plans must be developed that incorporate all aspects of development including social, economic and environmental needs.
- Development must proceed using both primary and secondary resources of the region.

Survey respondents placed emphasis on a consultative approach to development. While community leaders had strong opinions about the direction northern development should take, they qualified this opinion with the need to involve individuals and communities in the development process. This implies that balanced northern development is an ongoing process of reconciling the diverse interests of individuals, communities, government and industry.

Conclusions

This report analyzed northern opinion over the past 10 years through briefs presented to the NADC. This information was supplemented with a "snapshot" of current opinion collected through the Northern Perspectives Survey. The combination of development issues from the 1980s as well as today's priorities and concerns presents clear challenges for the upcoming decade.

Challenges in Human Services

There has been effort to resolve human services problems. Yet community leaders indicate work is still needed to:

- attract and retain professionals
- improve the quality and quantity of human service programs and facilities
- address problems associated with funding.

Challenges in Economic Development

In the past, northern Albertans have demonstrated a commitment to economic development as a means of strengthening communities and improving quality-of-life. For the most part, community leaders are confident that their economic development priorities can be achieved. However, they express a desire to see development proceed in a manner that:

- is compatible and supportive of northern lifestyles
- provides opportunities for young people and the unemployed

- contributes to the diversification of the northern economy
- maintains the integrity of the physical environment.

Challenges in Environmental Management

Respondents to the Northern Perspectives Survey cited a healthy environment as a key factor that makes living in the north enjoyable. While they generally support continued development of the region's resources, they are concerned about the need to:

- preserve the long-term integrity of the northern environment
- guide the nature and pace of large industrial projects from the standpoint of environmental sustainability.

The following is a summary prepared by the Northern Development Branch on

Early School Leavers Revisited (video)

Produced by: Praxis

March, 1990

Sponsored by: Alberta Vocational College Lesser Slave Lake
Northern Alberta Development Council

Background and Purpose

The Northern Alberta Development Council has over the past fifteen years engaged in a number of activities related to primary, secondary and further education.

In 1984, HLA Consultants Ltd. were commissioned to do a survey of the school drop-out problem in Northern Alberta. Several recommendations arose from that survey.

Four-and-a-half years later, the Northern Alberta Development Council, in conjunction with the Alberta Vocational College, Lesser Slave Lake, did a follow-up to the earlier survey. The videotape documents how six centres have approached and helped solve the problems of early school leavers. The six centres are: Calling Lake, Grand Centre, Grande Prairie, Lac La Biche, Peerless Lake, and Trout Lake.

Within this videotape, early school leavers are defined as persons likely to drop out of high school after having passed through primary and junior high schools; are adults who have previously dropped out of high school any number of times in the past and have once again returned. The age range of the early school leavers is varied.

Objective

The objective of this videotape is to document the operation of the early school leaving programs so viewers can appreciate the value of each.

Methodology

The project was divided into several stages, the first consisting of a telephone survey of all northern school division superintendents to determine their programming for early school leavers. Twenty-seven superintendents responsible for 38 jurisdictions were interviewed. Several programs were identified during the course of this survey and preliminary information collected.

Stage two was to document the successful programs into a format which could be used by education professionals to develop appropriate preventive programs. Praxis was commissioned to produce a video to show the successful programs.

Principal Findings/Key Points

The videotape contains information about the six centres as well as an introduction to the topic. The project's achievements are documented and the video encourages drop-outs to return to school.

Conclusion

The six centres presented in this video have been successful in addressing early school leaving. A number of common factors have contributed to that success: the community helps determine the nature of the program; there is genuine commitment by instructors and counsellors to encourage students to stay on; programs accommodate different learning environments and student situations; curriculum is made relevant; and students are expected to be responsible for their own learning.

The video confirms that success is possible. The challenge in dealing with early school leaving is to use the concepts presented in this video in imaginative and relevant ways.

The following is a summary prepared by the Northern Development Branch on

Northern Infrastructure Seminar

Written by: Northern Development Branch

March, 1990

Sponsored by: Northern Alberta Development Council

Background and Purpose

The Northern Alberta Development Council hosted a Northern Infrastructure Seminar in Slave Lake on November 2-4, 1988.

The purpose of the seminar was to review current infrastructure development in northern Alberta and discuss plans for the future.

Two hundred delegates attended and received information on future infrastructure development in northern Alberta. They were also brought up-to-date on the state of existing infrastructure and programs affecting it.

Objectives

The objectives of this seminar were to:

- create a forum for public input into northern infrastructure
- convey information to the public about infrastructure planning and services
- identify northern concerns and priorities in the area of infrastructure development.

Methodology

About 200 delegates participated. Government speakers, including Hon. Al "Boomer" Adair and Hon. Larry Shaben, members of the industry, and members of the community spoke at the seminar. These speakers helped to increase awareness of the issues.

The Seminar was divided into four major topics:

- Infrastructure - The Catalyst for Development
- Development Sectors and the Role of Infrastructure
- Government's Response to Infrastructure Needs in Northern Alberta
- Infrastructure and the Northern Economy.

At the three-day event, northerners reviewed the issues, suggested actions and identified concerns. A great deal of networking and information-sharing took place.

Conclusions

Everyone left Slave Lake having learned a great deal, not only about the status of infrastructure in the north now, but also about plans for the future. Ample opportunity had been allowed to ask questions and get answers, with experts available to cover every facet of infrastructure. Participants will continue to have access to the experts they met at the seminar and they only have to contact the experts to avail themselves of the expertise.

The invaluable information obtained at the seminar will certainly allow delegates to transfer what they had learned about infrastructure to good use in their own communities.

The following is a summary prepared by the Northern Development Branch on

An Analysis of the Impacts of a Proposal to Reduce the Northern Tax Benefit in Alberta

Written by: Northern Development Branch

March, 1990

Sponsored by: Northern Alberta Development Council

Background and Purpose

Since 1978, the federal government has offered tax relief for living expenses and travel to people employed in isolated northern communities. Originally these benefits were offered through the Isolated Posts and Northern Housing and Travel tax remission orders.

In 1986, the federal budget introduced a northern resident deduction program. This program, though well received by eligible taxpayers, has been a source of numerous administrative and public problems.

Since its inception, a number of communities currently not eligible have lobbied to be included. They point out the benefits that the program will have for their communities in terms of recruiting highly qualified professionals and promoting economic growth.. Excluded communities note the many similarities they share with places which are eligible. Finally, they complain about the complexity and inappropriateness of the program's eligibility criteria.

In 1988, the federal Minister of Finance appointed a task force chaired by Rene Brunelle to examine the program and make recommendations for change. In October, 1989, the task force published its report proposing a significant boundary change to the program.

In March, 1990 the Northern Alberta Development Council introduced a report to examine the implications for northern Alberta if Revenue Canada's proposed changes to the Northern Tax Benefit Program are implemented.

Objectives

The objectives of the NADC report were:

i. to outline how the Northern Tax Benefit Program currently works and explain some key concerns the federal government has tried to address with the proposed changes

ii. to describe the recommendations of the Task Force on Tax Benefits for Northern and Isolated Areas and their rationale

iii. to examine the impacts of a reduced tax benefit to northern Alberta and how well these new measures will meet the objectives northern residents see for the program.

Methodology

This study was conducted through a review of existing publications and reports of the federal and provincial governments. Interviews with key government officials and accountants, a review of news releases, media articles and briefs submitted to the Northern Alberta Development Council were also undertaken.

The topic of tax reform and tax benefits is complex. Equally complex is the analysis of the fiscal impact of the proposed tax benefit changes. The fiscal analysis within this report provides an "order of magnitude", rather than a comprehensive assessment of all the impacts of the tax changes.

Principal Findings

Briefs submitted to the Northern Alberta Development Council as well as submissions to the task force, made it apparent that northern residents had different objectives for the program than the task force. The task force suggested that the objective of the program should be narrowed to that of a recruitment

perk in the far north. Northerners argued that the benefit had substantial economic growth objectives for residents who already lived in the north as well for those who might move north for employment. A major positive impact of the benefit would be on local retail and consumer spending which create economic growth.

Using a methodology based upon 1985 tax year population, labor force statistics and variable marginal tax rates for 1989, this report concludes that about 15,600 residents will retain the benefit. Within the current "Prescribed Area", about 70,000 residents would no longer qualify for benefits. About 82,600 residents of the Fort McMurray and Grande Prairie Areas would not be eligible.

The report estimated the new zone would offer benefits of about $6.2 million to about 4,000 families. Benefits worth as much as $34.5 million would be withdrawn from about 23,000 families in the prescribed area. The Fort McMurray and Grande Prairie Areas had 28,000 families at the time the report was presented; they would not be eligible for $41.7 million (compared to the benefit they received in 1987).

Overall, the proposed line was seen to have a direct fiscal impact of between $56-$70 million for areas no longer eligible.

Conclusions

The Northern Tax Benefit program was administratively complex and hotly disputed by northerners not eligible for the program. In those communities eligible, the program was well received. Over time, the program's objectives took on an economic growth focus rather than a narrow "recruitment" focus. A task force was appointed to develop a new line to overcome the administrative problems the program encountered. The task force proposed imposing a line much farther north than before which excluded all but about 15,600 residents of northern Alberta.

The task force believed the measurement for a system of tax benefits should be "effectiveness, efficiency, equity and simplicity." The proposed new northern zone would simplify the program and thus render it more efficient. The system of "place names" and complex eligibility criteria made the program difficult for Revenue Canada and for northern residents.

Northern Albertans argued that the same factors that prevail north of the new line exist south of the line as well. Climate is possibly less severe but those factors of service levels and cost-of-living are just a problematic. So is the problem that the benefit is aimed at resolving: the problem of recruitment. Northern Alberta's serious problems in recruiting could not be addressed by the new line.

The following is a summary prepared by the Northern Development Branch on

Impact of the Goods and Services Tax on Northern Alberta

Written by: Scott & Fenrich Consultants Incorporated

February, 1990

Sponsored by: Northern Alberta Development Council

Background and Purpose

The Federal Finance Minister introduced a Goods and Services Tax by way of an amendment to the Canada Excise Act through a ways and means motion. The Federal Government produced technical papers on the GST, structured amendments in the face of public criticism, and developed an approach to what is in essence a value-added tax for implementation on January 1, 1991.

The Alberta Government is on record as having vigorously opposed the GST. The Province believed that the imposition of this tax would have severe negative implications for Alberta.

Neither the Federal Government nor the Government of Alberta have specifically focused on the types of problems which could arise in the North. Northern Alberta, as a result of a resource economy, small population, and the vast distances for lifestyle and economic stability is particularly susceptible to some of the negative aspects of the GST. This paper identifies the major problem areas for Northern Alberta in concert with the definition of the GST and a critique of its implementation.

Objectives

The objective of this document is to focus on and identify the major problem areas for Northern Alberta that the GST could induce.

Methodology

The following departments and publications were drawn on to complete this document.

- Goods and Services Tax - An Overview
- The Proposed Goods and Services Tax
- Federal & Intergovernmental Affairs
- Alberta Economic Development & Trade

Principal Findings

Northern Alberta was foreseen to be adversely affected by the introduction of a Goods and Services Tax. The prime impact of the GST would be its tax on personal travel which would dampen consumer expenditure in the face of an inability to pass the burden on to consumers of products. This net outflow of cash for the Northern region would decrease demand, stimulate the search for alternative employment, and contribute to a slowing of economic prospects for already struggling small communities. The key service sector which in many ways is the prime enterprise of Northern Alberta would be the most adversely affected. Problems were envisioned with respect to compliance, the capability to pass on the GST, and wage demands in previously untaxed sectors.

Conclusion

In essence the NADC paper saw the GST as a tax on distance. This tax could for many years be a contributing factor to a decline in economic activity in Northern Alberta. The GST, in combination with the reduction of the Northern Tax Allowance would have a negative effect on consumer expenditure power in this region. This effect would be exaggerated beyond that elsewhere in Canada by the cost of transportation. The net effect of the combination of the two taxes could result in a dampening of the Northern economy for several years.

The following is a summary prepared by the Northern Development Branch on

Adult Education Needs in the Lakeland Area

Written by: Harvey Research Ltd.

In Association With

Richard T. Price, Director, School of Native Studies, University of Alberta

November, 1989

Sponsored by: Lakeland College
Northern Alberta Development Council

Background and Purpose

A study of adult education needs in the Lakeland area was commissioned by the Northern Alberta Development Council and Lakeland College and carried out by Harvey Research Ltd. in the latter half of 1988. Three post-secondary institutions provide courses in the study area through regional campuses (Lakeland College), satellite campuses (Alberta Vocational Centre), and directly from Blue Quills First Nations College. As well, three Further Education Councils are active in supporting courses in the area.

Objectives

The study objectives were to:

i. assess adult education needs and the extent to which they are being met

ii. assess the training needs of employers and the extent to which they are being met

iii. identify current programs, methods of program delivery, methods of communication about programs and current clientele of post-secondary institutions in the study area

iv. identify any major and minor constraints that could impede more efficient or more effective marketing/delivery of adult education courses and programs

v. describe the study method for replication purposes.

Methodology

The approach involved data collection from three sources: a random survey of adults living in the area with representative sampling from the major centres, the outlying areas, and reserves and settlement; a small survey of a cross-section of employers in the area; and interviews with key administrators in post-secondary institutions serving the area.

The adult survey was conducted by five telephone interviewers in the major centres and outlying areas and by six native interviewers on their own reserves or settlements. Cover letters preceded telephone interviews. Personal interviews were conducted with post-secondary administrators.

Principal Findings

- Education courses are widely accessed by the adult population in the study area.
- The proportion of people who have recently taken courses and who have no further interest in taking any more is much lower (25 out of 378) than the proportion of new people who are interested in taking courses (67 out of 378). There should therefore be a net growth in adult student course enrolment providing interest in courses can be translated into course registration.
- The group reporting the highest enrolment in courses recently and the highest interest in courses in the future is female and between ages 25 and 45.
- There were distinct population sub-groups accessing courses. People in major centres reported taking extension courses most often, people in outlying areas were most likely to take general interest courses, and people on reserves and settlements were most likely to take academic upgrading.

- Types of courses people in major centres and outlying areas are interested in taking in the future are first: general interest, and second: training for employment and extension. People on reserves and settlements are most interested in academic upgrading and training for employment.

- The main reasons people gave for course choices were proximity to home and no other choice available. Additional reasons for natives on reserves and settlements included scheduling and available transportation.

- Lakeland College meets the majority of student needs in general interest courses, training for employment, and extension courses in the area: AVC meets the majority of needs for academic upgrading.

- Communication about courses to adults has been highly successful in major centres and outlying areas and moderately successful on reserves and settlements.

- A little over half the people interested in taking courses in the future have encountered some difficulties in the past or anticipate some difficulties in the future in taking courses. Long distance to travel, course or other costs, and lack of babysitting were the most common concerns across all groups.

- The need for babysitting services is greatest in Tri-Town and St. Paul and reported to lesser degree in Bonnyville.

- Taking courses for credit is important to over half those interested. Finding courses to meet credit requirements was one of the more frequently reported difficulties by those living in major centres.

- Response to distance education methods were favorable. The most attractive methods are: correspondence courses where a tutor helps students in the classroom, courses where part of the learning is by video cassette, individualized courses with a tutor, and correspondence courses completed in the home.

- People who had tried any distance education method of learning were more willing to try it again than new people were to try it for the first time.

- A high proportion of employers surveyed thought community college-type education services in the area were useful. Many had recently hired graduates from the institutions and, also, their staff had taken available training courses from one or more institutions.

- Program gaps were identified with the greatest needs being the second year of a rehabilitation program and a diploma or certificate in management. Requests were also made for evening academic upgrading courses, more integration of the power engineering program with industry; evening courses in electricity; university level courses in math, chemistry, biology; an adult education MEd, and more courses in hospitality.

- Employers made offers of contributions they could make to programs beyond those they are already making.

- Current programs in the study area address a wide range of subjects and areas of interest. There is little overlap of programs in the study area itself. There is some overlap when programs in Lac La Biche and Vermilion are taken into account. However, since the survey found that the

most common reason for choosing an institution was proximity to home, it would be a hardship to some students to close down programs in any centres. Where the costs of mounting a program are high and the potential number of students is small, then program overlap is costly, particularly if at the same time there are program gaps.

- Methods of teaching courses are largely traditional with the instructor in the classroom. The main exception is courses brokered by Lakeland College and delivered through teleconference.

- Methods of communicating about programs to students vary somewhat among the institutions.

- Follow-up of graduates to determine the relationship between programs and future employment is carried out for at least two programs at present.

- There are many examples of cooperation between institutions in working out the delivery of courses in the study area. There is not, however, a formal group that meets on a regular basis to establish general policy for cooperation or to map out complementary programming.

- The Sunrise Project in Slave Lake has an approach to brokering university courses that could have some application at Lakeland College.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- Future education program planning should take the needs of population sub-groups into account.

- The consultant for native studies recommended that institutions communicate with reserves and settlements through students attending programs ("moccasin telegraph") and also by holding two-day workshops to explain programs.

- Distance education teaching methods should first be included in traditional courses first to give students experience and confidence. These methods should gradually be used on a wider basis and independent from traditional methods to help allay common difficulties in taking courses.

- All course costs must be kept as low as possible.

- To help adult students meet requirements for specific certificates, diplomas or degrees, Lakeland College, through its regional campuses, should keep track of courses offered that meet specific program requirements and try to offer courses that students can complete in a reasonable period of time.

- Lakeland College and AVC need to follow up the survey results by discussing program needs with employers and potential employers. Program advisory committees can be formed to assist in program development.

- Program staff should be notified of employer offers to make additional contributions to programs.

- A recent article on native learning styles is recommended for native studies for those planning program delivery for native students (Swisher, K. and Deyhle, D. Styles of Learning and Learning of Styles: "Educational Conflicts for American Indian/Alaskan Native Youth." Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development. Vol 8. No. 4, pp.345-360, 1987).

- Graduate follow-up and the results of current and prospective students follow-up should be expanded. The booklet NAIT produces annually on student employment following program completion is a good example.

- The formation of a formal group with representatives form the post-secondary educational institutions serving the area deserves serious consideration. CEC representation should also be invited. The group should meet on a regular basis to discuss the shared mission to deliver education services to the area and to discuss approaches to common concerns. A representative from Alberta Advanced Education or a Northern Alberta Development Council staff member should call the first meeting and act as chair for the start-up phase.

- Lakeland College staff should review the Sunrise Program Evaluation report and follow up those parts that might apply to their college and university course brokering program.

- The consultant for native studies also recommends a review by all institutions and communities of the recent (Fall 1988) University of Alberta Senate Task Force Report on the North. This report deals at length with the educational needs of northern Albertans including native northerners.

The following is a summary prepared by the Northern Development Branch on

Health Care Connection - 1989: Northern Enhancement Project

Written by: Buie Management Consulting

November, 1989

Sponsored by: Rural Health Care Association of Alberta
Northern Alberta Development Council

Background and Purpose

The Health Care Connection is designed to bring together community representatives from hospitals, health units, agencies, and students from selected health care professions to inform the students of professional and personal opportunities in rural Alberta.

There is keen competition in Canada and the United States to recruit health care professionals, especially nurses. Recruitment has proven difficult for northern Alberta communities that already have a history of problems when it comes to attracting qualified staff. Limited budgets, the need to offer 'perks' and to overcome 'isolation' myths continues to make recruiting difficult and often frustrating.

For these reasons, the High Prairie Regional Health Complex joined with the Rural Health Care Association of Alberta (RHCAA) to ensure that northern communities are provided with extra recruitment support and assistance.

Objectives

The objectives for the Northern Enhancement Project were:

i. to encourage a community-based recruitment effort

ii. to increase northern hospital/community participation to 70%

iii. to increase student participation to 15% of those involved, particularly in nursing.

Methodology

The data were obtained by two surveys: a community survey and a student survey.

Principal Findings

- There was significantly more community input in 1989 than 1988. Most communities provided display and promotional materials to the hospitals, health units and agencies.

- Twenty-four out of 27 northern communities with hospitals participated in the Health Care Connection, representing a rate of 89%. This is well above the objective of 70%.

- The number of booths sold was 73. Of these, 24 northern communities accounted for 53 (73%) booth sales. This reflects the higher level of community involvement as well as agency involvement.

- The Health Care Connection - 1989, drew 479 students from the 2598 who were invited, for an overall attendance rate of 18%, exceeding the objective of 15%.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Health Care Connection is fills a demand by exposing students to rural opportunities and encouraging them to consider a rural career. The focus on students as an ongoing recruitment base is unique and should continue. The Health Care Connection plays an important part in long-term recruitment strategy and encourages communities to plan.

The planning committee reviewed the event as well as the student and community survey responses and makes the following recommendations:

- The RHCAA should consider two separate 'Connection' events; one for students and one for already employed health care professionals. The events could be held on two consecutive evenings or employed individuals could be hosted in the spring. This would enable the planning committee to properly promote each Connection.

- A decision must be made on whether it is in the best interest of the communities and students to allow the event to continue to grow. If more communities wish to participate in the future, then a new and larger location must be chosen.

- The end of September appears to have met student needs. No tests or exams were underway, and students had been back at school for three weeks. Promotion on campus was done during the first week of classes and met with approval of instructors. Fall is a busy time for communities, but the RHCAA can avoid conflict with other conferences.

- The hours should remain the same.

- Refreshments should be served in more than one place to avoid congestion. More non-alcoholic beverages should be available.

- Pre-registrations should be considered for 1990 to provide a better idea of space requirements and help determine a location. Early registration could also cut costs.

- Communities must be encouraged to provide the information students have requested; i.e. salaries, accommodation, cost of living, recreational activities, etc. Professionals in medicine, dentistry, retail pharmacy, social work, etc., should attend as part of the community recruitment effort.

- Rather than increase the number of professions invited, the emphasis should be on promoting the event, especially to nurses, medical residents and interns, and dental hygienists.

- Rather than increase the number of students attending, the student mix should reflect more students in the last years of their programs, and also reflect the demand.

The following is a summary prepared by the Northern Development Branch on

Opportunities for Health Care Professionals in Northern Alberta

Written by: Buie Management Consulting

September, 1989

Sponsored by: Northern Alberta Development Council

Background and Purpose

Northern Alberta offers a full range of health services out of modern, sophisticated health facilities. However, continued northern growth has increased the need for a wider variety of health care professionals. Nurses, physiotherapists and physicians are in particular demand in a number of northern centres. Also, more remote areas of the north face on-going needs for health care professionals.

The Northern Alberta Development Council contracted Buie Management Consulting to develop a prospectus of opportunities for health care professionals in northern Alberta. This resulting document was directed toward physicians, nurses, physiotherapists and other health care professionals who might be exploring a career in northern Alberta.

Objectives

The objective of this document is to inform health care professionals about northern Alberta and career opportunities open to them there.

Methodology

Background data were obtained from the following sources:

- NADC
- Business Development Representatives
- Alberta Economic Development & Trade
- Alberta Energy and Natural Resources
- Alberta Forestry, Lands & Wildlife
- Communities earmarked for resource development

Primary data were obtained from a survey of all health care facility contacts.

Principal Findings/Key Points

This document is divided into three parts:

- Northern Alberta - A Description: This section presents an overview of northern Alberta, emphasizing its most attractive features. The following features are discussed:
    - the land
    - the economy
    - the services
    - the people
- Opportunities in the North: This section presents opportunities for physicians in northern Alberta and other health care professionals. Also included is a comparison of doctor distribution in Northern Alberta.
- Community Health Care Profiles: Presented in this final section is a summary profile of health services based upon survey and secondary information for 31 northern towns and cities.

Conclusion

Northern Alberta offers a wide range of sophisticated health care facilities. The comments provided in this document may give you a better idea of why so many professionals choose to live and work in northern Alberta.

The following is a summary prepared by the Northern Development Branch on

Bonnyville: An Economic Development Planning Process

Written by: Whyte Reynolds and Associates

April, 1989

Sponsored by: Bonnyville & District Economic Development Committee
Northern Alberta Development Council

Background and Purpose

The Bonnyville & District Economic Development Committee, a body of the Bonnyville & District Chamber of Commerce, determined a need to devise and implement an economic development strategy for the Bonnyville region: it therefore developed an action plan.

The action plan is intended as a guide in the Committee's efforts to expand and maximize the economy of the area in a planned manner for the benefit of the people in the region.

The plan integrates four sectors of the local economy for analysis in the Plan: Tourism, Community Infrastructure Development, Retail and Service Trade Development, and Industry.

Each sector of the economy is examined in the Economic Development Plan, and discussed in terms of its effect and importance on the local economy including the positive and negative factors.

In February, 1989, Whyte Reynolds and Associates was commissioned by the Northern Alberta Development Council to assist the Bonnyville & District Economic Development Committee to develop an economic action plan, in response to a brief submitted to the NADC by the committee.

Objectives

The objectives of the Bonnyville & District Economic Development Committee were to:

- encourage local industry and business to develop within the region
- encourage new industry and business to come into the region
- promote the development of infrastructure to help business and industry locate and expand
- promote and research the maximum use of the region's natural resources
- provide local people with access to both private and public sector financial and business agencies of the region
- promote the region
- provide a contact point regarding economic development
- provide consulting services to those businesses in need of these
- provide information service regarding business location, etc.
- maximize and promote Bonnyville and surrounding district as a place to live
- stimulate downtown revitalization and development to offset the impact of shopping malls
- improve tourism
- co-ordinate activities of all groups, organizations and agencies involved in economic development to avoid duplication and to focus efforts
- establish liaison with other area economic development committees

- promote entrepreneurship training in the educational system.

Methodology

All existing relevant documents available for Bonnyville and area were reviewed for this project. This review included:

- 1986 Census of Bonnyville
- MD of Bonnyville Population Breakdown
- Bonnyville History Document
- Statistics
    - farm
    - fishery
    - Lakeland College
    - government offices
    - tourism
- Bonnyville and District Community Tourism Action Plan
- *Bonnyville Nouvelle* Newspaper Files

Principal Findings

The suggested Action Plan was designed to address several goals discussed during the Bonnyville Economic Development Workshop. The Action Plan addresses the following top priorities identified at the workshop:

- consistent hours of business
- improved camping facilities
- heavy oil interpretive centre
- coordination among downtown merchants
- tourism facilities on Moose Lake
- Lakeland College Campus
- a community events calendar
- regional airport
- a marketable theme and image for the community
- downtown street beautification
- Jessie Lake nature centre

- a Farmer's Market
- the development of convention facilities
- import substitution
- value-added and spin-off business opportunities.

Conclusions and Recommendations

It is recommended that activity be concentrated in areas where good results are most attainable, while more difficult and long-term projects are addressed over the long-term and implemented more slowly. It is suggested that various interest groups in the community continue their planning activities and enhance the level of cooperation and inter-communication between and among groups. Further, it is recommended that the most favored two or three special projects receive detailed feasibility analyses and priority ranking.

It is important for any committee to set attainable goals in the short term. It is recommended that the Committee follow this Action Plan and simultaneously continue its efforts to get more Bonnyville & District residents involved.

The following is a summary prepared by the Northern Development Branch on

Adult Literacy in Northern Alberta: A Background Report (and NADC recommendations)

Written by:	Northern Development Branch
	March, 1989
Revised	June, 1989
Sponsored by:	Northern Alberta Development Council

Background and Purpose

In recent years the Northern Alberta Development Council has witnessed an increasing interest in adult literacy. To become more familiar with this topic, the NADC requested a study of literacy in northern Alberta. The report is organized in four sections.

Section 1 — Provides an introduction to the project itself, including an outline of the objectives and methodology.

Section 2 — Presents an overview of literacy as gleaned from the literature; highlights key issues such as the definition of illiteracy, measuring illiteracy, and the consequences of illiteracy to society. A discussion of the key literacy players is also included.

Section 3 — Outlines the literacy picture in the north and includes subsections on the characteristics of the "statistically illiterate" population, a profile of literary learners, an inventory of literary services, and government funding for literacy programs.

Section 4 — Concludes with a summary of results and a discussion of northern literacy issues.

Objectives

The study has four objectives:

i. to conduct a thorough literature review on literacy issues and trends

ii. to provide an overview of literacy and the present situation in northern Alberta

iii. to identify the characteristics of illiterate adults in northern Alberta

iv. to complete a thorough review of all programs and practices addressing literacy in northern Alberta.

Methodology

In January, 1988, the steering committee directed that a three-phase approach be taken to this review.

Phase I — H.L.A. Consultants, Edmonton, were hired to look at six northern communities and nine post-secondary institutions. Over 200 interviews were conducted with four types of respondents:

- providers of programs - administrators and coordinators
- literacy workers - tutors and instructors
- students of literacy programs
- community persons - individuals, agencies and organizations concerned with adult literacy.

This Study resulted in a theoretical and descriptive overview of the nature of literacy.

Phase II — Bonnie Hutchenson Enterprises Inc., Camrose, Alberta, conducted a thorough review of the 1986 census data paying close attention to the characteristics of the northern population who have less than grade 9. As well, a survey of all literacy projects and services was offered in northern Alberta, including adult basic Education (ABE) classes, volunteer tutor projects (VTPs) and English as a second language (ESL) classes. This information resulted in Adult Literacy in Northern Alberta: A Statistical Overview.

Phase III — Phase III planned to follow two scheduled workshops in the northwest and northeast regions of the province. The results of the workshops were to form the basis of an NADC position paper on adult literacy in northern Alberta.

Principal Findings

- In northern Alberta, 16.6% or 27,715 people have less than Grade 9 education. In 1988, there were 2,361 people enroled in literacy projects.
- Men make up 57% of the low-education population and women the remaining 43%. However, the gender gap is reversed for literacy project enrolment: 56% of all learners are women; 44% are men.
- The population with less than Grade 9 education tends to be older: 65% are over 44 years. The reverse is true for literacy project enrolment: 91% are under 45 years, and 47% are under 25.
- A high proportion of the population with less than Grade 9 is likely to be of native background. The trend continues for literacy project enrolment, with 44% of all literacy learners being natives.
- Few literacy learners lack school experience entirely: 63% have less than a Grade 9 education, 4% have a high school diploma or beyond, and the rest fall somewhere in between.
- Five government departments or agencies fund literacy projects in northern Alberta. They are Alberta Advanced Education, Alberta Career Development and Employment, Employment and Immigration (Canada), Indian and Northern Affairs (Canada), and the Canada/Alberta Northern Development Subsidiary Agreement. Secretary of State (Canada) supports literacy related projects.
- Project strengths include a flexible, adaptable structure that is generally learner-centred and community-based. This is especially true for volunteer tutor projects.
- Eight key issues affecting northern literacy have been identified:
    - Literacy awareness
    - Targeting literacy learners
    - Learner support
    - Voluntary Tutor Project support
    - Program funding
    - Prevention

- Illiteracy and natives
- Innovative approaches.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the findings of the background report, two public workshops and extensive consultation, the NADC made the following recommendations within a separate NADC report - Adult Literacy in Northern Alberta: Position Paper:

- That senior governments fund a coordinated multi-media campaign to increase the awareness of illiteracy during the United Nations Year of Literacy in 1990.
- That northern Alberta school boards and Alberta Education take the responsibility and subsequent action to reduce the incidence of students leaving the school system without sufficient literacy skills.
- That the Alberta government establish a one window approach to literacy programs and services and that a single department be designated to serve in that role.
- That Alberta Advanced Education increase the level of funding for volunteer tutor projects.
- That Alberta Advanced Education provide funding based on the actual needs of individual volunteer tutor projects as per budget requirements which take into account the activities of each project.
- That the Alberta Government provide institutions with sufficient long-term core funding for literacy programming.
- That literacy providers ensure a range of support systems to assist adult learners to deal with and overcome the barriers they face.
- That the relevant departments in the provincial and federal governments jointly convene a task force together with native organizations such as zone and regional councils, band and settlement councils to examine northern literacy needs.

The following is a summary prepared by the Northern Development Branch on

Fairview College's Northern Region Adult Literacy Program:
The Impact on the Lives of Students and Tutors

Written by: Daina Bruners and Associates

March, 1989

Sponsored by: Fairview College Northern Region
Northern Alberta Development Council

Background and Purpose

The ability to read, write and speak English is often taken for granted. Most people have been fortunate enough to go to school and learn these skills. Thus, it is difficult to imagine what it would be like to be illiterate. How do lives change if adults are learning to read and write?

Fairview College's Northern Region Adult Literacy Program was established in 1977. This program is one of Alberta's largest projects. It is an important part of community life in High Level, Fort Vermilion, Buffalo Head Prairie, La Crete and Paddle Prairie. In 1989 the literacy program was expanded to Meander River.

The overall purpose of this study was to determine the impact or difference The Northern Region Adult Literacy Program makes on the lives of students and tutors. Daina A. Bruners and Associates was commissioned to find this out.

Objectives

A number of objectives were identified:

i. to prepare a brief description of the literacy program, including an outline of its history and development

ii. to identify specific changes the program has made in the knowledge, skills and attitudes of the students and tutors

iii. to determine if and how the changes have affected the lives of these people

iv. to determine whether or not the students and tutors have increased their potential for employment and/or improved their present employment situation

v. to conclude whether the program had an overall positive or negative effect on the lives of the students and tutors

vi. to identify social and economic changes or developments that have occurred in the communities.

Methodology

The researcher visited the communities where the literacy program has been established. Information was gathered through personal interviews with past and present students, past and present tutors and program staff. Data from the interviews were combined with a review of literature and personal observations of the researcher.

Principal Findings

The results of this study identified many changes in the lives of students and tutors. These changes were all positive. As students gained the ability to read, write and speak English, their attitudes changed. They saw themselves capable of setting and achieving new goals. Children were encouraged to stay in school. These adults were also developing valuable employment-related skills. This literacy project was judged to be beneficial not only to the students and tutors, but also to the communities.

Conclusions and Recommendations

This study provided a glimpse into a significant development in Northern Alberta. This is not only social and economic, it is also political and involves development of communities and of human resources in these communities. Fairview College's Northern Region Adult Literacy Program has had little publicity, fanfare, or coverage by the news media. But its benefits will continue to be felt for years to come.

Many of the adults served by the program did not have an opportunity to attend school as children. They never did learn to speak, read and write English well enough to get along in today's world.

The program started as a grass-roots movement in Fort Vermilion. A group of community members were concerned about the high levels of illiteracy among their neighbors and friends. From here, the literacy program has expanded, but still remains very much a part of the communities.

The following recommendations are based on the researcher's personal observations as well as conversations during the interviews with community residents:

- Waiting lists for Pacemaking classes are getting longer by the year. Thus, the literacy program should be expanded to meet these needs.
- In all cases, the present Adult Education Facilities are overcrowded. Alternative facilities should be considered.
- Up to now, the program has expanded quickly, based on the availability of funding from year to year. This literacy project is no longer a pilot project. Its success is evident. Thus it is recommended that long-term development plans be made, ensuring a balanced and progressive expansion.
- As it now stands, the literacy program represents an effective way of meeting community needs for literacy training. This participative and community-based focus should continue.
- As more students complete the literacy program, the need for academic upgrading will increase. The transition between these two phases is not satisfactory at the present time. It needs to be evaluated and developed.
- As much as possible, student skills should be formally evaluated upon entry to the program, at given time intervals and then also when they leave. This would provide valuable data for judging the success of the program regarding numbers and statistics. Judgements could also be made of the time needed to achieve basic or functional levels of literacy.
- An overall evaluation of the program should be carried out. Tutor effectiveness, instructional materials, tutor training and tutoring methods should all be examined. This evaluation should be participative in nature, and include feedback from everyone involved. Thus, the strengths and weaknesses of the program could be determined. It would also be useful in guiding further expansion plans.
- A significant number of newer tutors felt they had not received adequate orientation and training. It was suggested that tutor training be reviewed. Also, senior staff should obtain tutor training certificates.

- For many students, English is a second language. Thus ESL training for tutors may be helpful.
- Many students missed "The New Reader's Page". It should once again be put in the newspapers.

The following is a summary prepared by the Northern Development Branch on

Community Survey Handbook: Exploring Community Views on Community Issues

Written by: Northern Development Branch with text adapted from material prepared by Harvey Research Ltd.

February, 1989

Sponsored by: Northern Alberta Development Council

Background and Purpose

Often community organizations find themselves planning for future roles without adequate community information. This handbook is a guide to show how to obtain that information.

Objectives

The general objectives are:

i. to show the people involved with information gathering that a community survey need not be an overwhelming task

ii. to show that if the plan or "survey process" is followed, the desired information with be obtained.

Methodology

The handbook was under the guidance of a public steering committee. External consultants with experience in community surveys were drawn on to complete this handbook. The focus was placed on the practical concerns and procedures involved in community surveys.

Principal Findings/Key Points

The handbook identifies four major steps in preparing and administering a community survey:

- before beginning a survey
- the plan
- implementation
- follow-up

Before Beginning a Survey

There are four steps that must be taken:

- Analyze the Situation - Once a community survey is decided upon, the next step is to analyze the situation. One way to do this is through a series of questions that will help focus on what must be accomplished and will outline the possible outcomes.
- Consult with Key Agencies and Individuals - Contact must be made with those people who may be affected. A community survey has a good chance of being successfully completed if there is overall community support for the project.
- Establish a Working Committee -Experience has shown that an appointed smaller "working committee" or "task group" tends to be more efficient in handling projects.
- Summarize the Issue and Purpose - Before action is taken each member must understand and agree to the problems, issues and goals.

The Plan

There are four steps involved in formulating a plan.

- Encourage Community Involvement - Throughout the project, it is important to share information and communicate at every step. People want to know what has been done, what is being done and what will be done. Community involvement is critical to the success of the project.

- Identify Resources - To carry out a survey of community priorities, a number of resources are needed. Identify what local resources are available from such sources as schools, government offices and major employers.

- Choose Survey Approach - Four major methods can be used to ask people for information. These methods can be used either or in combination:

    - personal interviews
    - telephone interviews
    - mail questionnaires
    - group discussions

- Review Existing Information - One final step is to see what information is already available. Other organizations may have already asked the same questions.

- Summarize the Plan - After examining and discussing the planning stage, the working committee should complete a list that includes the survey approach, the resources available, the resources needed, documents available, and a timeline stating when the survey results are needed.

Implementation

Now that the groundwork is done, the plan can be implemented. There are seven steps that take place now:

- Choose the Sample - The planning and consultation have shown who should be surveyed. From this "population", select a "sample" - the people within the population who will actually be interviewed or surveyed.

- Maintain Public Support - It is important to have public support so that the survey results are accepted as legitimate, unbiased and representative of public opinion.

- Design the Survey - The survey must be designed in a way that it is easy for the individual to read and answer the questions. How the questions are worded, asked and arranged is important.

- Administer the Survey - The administration of the survey should be carefully supervised. The interviewers should be trained and supervised, which includes discussing and keeping track of their progress.

- Keep on Track - The key to keeping on track and progressing with the project is to outline overall project timelines. Map out the tasks and try to predict how much time will be needed for each stage.

- Interpret the Survey Results - Once the data have been collected, they must be sorted, cross-sorted, and calculated. The survey results should then be written up in a draft and presented to the working committee.

- Write the Report - The survey results must be made public. A good way to do this is by writing a report of the project.

Follow-up

Now it is time to decide upon action to be taken. If nothing happens, the information gathered was a waste of time and effort. Local people are involved and interested in the project. Make sure the results are visible. There are four steps to following-up on the survey.

- Report Back - Formally submit the report for acceptance and adoption by the sponsoring organization.

- Share the Information

- Create an Action Plan - If there are conclusions or recommendations, create an action plan to ensure they will be carried out.

- Evaluate - The last task of the working committee is to review the process. Note what might have been changed or improved.

- Show Appreciation - Volunteers work long and hard. Show appreciation to hardworking committee members and volunteers.

In addition to the four major steps to community surveying, the Appendices provides the following practical information:

- a project timeline form

- a list of resource agencies

- a list of northern community surveys

- a list of terms and definitions.

There is also an abundance of practical information in the companion document to this report, Community Survey Handbook - Technical "How-To" Guide. This manual describes how to:

- Use the technical guide.

- Set the timelines.

- Select a sample.

- Design the questionnaire.
- Conduct the pre-test.
- Train the surveyors.
- Collect the answers.
- Analyze the answers.

Conclusion

Using a community survey can make a tremendous difference to any community. Planning can be done with confidence, with information about issues, concerns, and the community. When the effective use of material, money and human resources is essential, one of best ways to ensure the needs of the community are met is to do a community survey.

The following is a summary prepared by the Northern Development Branch on

A Study of the Youth of Northern Alberta & Entrepreneurship

Written by: Whyte Reynolds & Associates

January, 1989

Sponsored by: Northern Alberta Development Council

Background and Purpose

Entrepreneurship has become the economic development battle cry of this decade. Entrepreneurs are seen as the focus for future job creation and economic growth. Thus, there has been some bandwagon effect in the development of entrepreneurial education, training and assistance programs. In addition, many leaders in this movement have identified youth as a key target group for the future growth of entrepreneurialism.

Providing entrepreneurial training and assistance to potential user groups is a challenge. The delivery of entrepreneurial programs in Alberta's north has unique and exacting demands. Northern Alberta's youth are the most mobile and scattered segment of the region's population and this complicates the challenge.

The Council has an established objective of assisting northern Alberta's youth to become entrepreneurs and to operate their own businesses. Council commissioned the management consulting firm, Whyte Reynolds & Associates to undertake **A Study of the Youth of Northern Alberta and Entrepreneurship.**

Objectives

The objectives of the study were:

- to determine the small business opportunities available to northern youth and the present level of involvement of young northerners in business ventures
- to determine what training programs, centres and educational opportunities are available to assist and educate young people wishing to enter into and succeed in small business ventures in Alberta, Canada and the United States
- to determine the financing sources available to a young entrepreneur and their ease or access
- to determine ways and means of stimulating a greater awareness of entrepreneurialism among northern youth.

Methodology

The techniques used to complete the research phases of this study included:

- a search for existing northern Alberta youth entrepreneurs, under the age of 25, using various networks such as weekly newspapers, chambers of commerce, government contacts, local municipal officials, high schools and post-secondary institutions, economic developers and informed business people
- personal interviews with young entrepreneurs, educators, people responsible for delivering applicable government programs, academics, local officials and members of the business community
- a survey of existing and planned entrepreneurial assistance programs in Alberta, across Canada and, to a limited extent, in the United States

- an analysis of the entrepreneurial phenomenon, various methodologies for teaching it, ways of reaching northern youth, and potential northern youth user groups for entrepreneurial assistance in the future
- a determination of the best ways of conveying the entrepreneurial message to a widely scattered and segmented population
- a determination of the most efficient and effective ways of delivering assistance programs to the target users.

Principal Findings

Entrepreneurship describes the process of putting an innovation into the market place with the innovator assuming the risk. Unfortunately, "entrepreneur" is now in general usage to describe anyone in business.

Northern Alberta young people, under the age of 25, are widely scattered and not all easily reached. Further, many are not particularly aware of the entrepreneurial alternative as a vocational option. Generally speaking, educational institutions and educators do not do an adequate job of promoting this alternative. The teaching of entrepreneurialism is neglected in the school system.

The desire to develop entrepreneurial education, assistance and training programs has been exhibited by other government departments, agencies, institutions and organizations. There is an urgent need to coordinate this activity.

Northern Alberta Youth

Several target groups have been recognized among northern Alberta's youth population. The individual target groups and their sub-groups are:

Group 1: Elementary School Children

- Early Childhood Services and Grade 1
- Grades 2 through 9

Group 2: High School Students

Group 3: The Employed, Unemployed and Under-Employed

- High School Dropouts
- Post-Secondary School Dropouts
- Unemployed and Under-Employed
- Post-Secondary School Graduates
- Employed and Self-Employed

Groups 1 and 2 have been identified as a captive audience best communicated with through the school system. Group 3 consists of a widely scattered audience, best communicated with through their communications medium, the radio.

Suggestions for the future delivery of entrepreneurial assistance programs to northern Alberta's youth have been compiled.

- To assist northern Alberta's youth to realize entrepreneurial goals, a variety of tactics and programs must be adopted with specific target audiences in mind.
- Delivery mechanisms must be flexible, efficient and responsive enough to be easily adapted for a wide variety of geographical conditions and target audiences.
- As much as possible, the education and small business communities should collaborate to design and deliver entrepreneurial education and assistance programs.
- The "creative thought" and "calculated risk" aspects of entrepreneurialism should be emphasized with younger audiences (under 13 years of age) as opposed to business skills, self-entrepreneurial evaluation and financing as with older target audiences (14-to-25 years of age).

Group 1: Elementary School Children

The first target group was subdivided into two separate sections, based on their entrepreneurial education needs. The first group, Early Childhood Services and Grade 1 was recognized as a free-thinking and imaginative part of society. The unbridled thought processes of this age group could be encouraged by using an innovative program.

The second part of this target group involves students enroled in Grades 2 to 9. They were seen as a receptive audience for fundamental business building blocks, including basic business terms and an introduction to a different business types. Students in these grades could be introduced to the subject areas through a combination of Career Days and the Business Basics Program available from Junior Achievement.

Elementary school teachers could be formally trained in entrepreneurial philosophy, business basics and self-employment career opportunities. The contribution of school teachers could be enhanced through active involvement of the business community in both Career Days and Business Basics Programs.

Group 2: High School Students

Junior Achievements's Project Business Program could be introduced to Grade 8 and 9 students in northern Alberta. Junior Achievement's Company Program should be made available to Grade 11 and 12 students. Northern Alberta's post-secondary school institutions should be encouraged to offer, where practical, a mini-university concept program, similar to that planned by the University of Calgary (Youth Entrepreneurship Program). Here too, attempts could be made to use the business community and other local leaders to help deliver the entrepreneurial messages.

A limited integrated senior high school Student Entrepreneurial Business Start-Up Program should be introduced in northern Alberta. This program could adopt the Grade 11 and 12 "Development of Entrepreneurs" course curriculum from Ontario and Dawson Creek's small business incubator. This program could be tested in both a large and medium-sized urban centre in northern Alberta, as well as in a rural area served by a regional high school. If the program were successful over a three-year period, it could be considered for other locations.

This target group could also benefit from formal Career Days every year in high school and the Alberta Opportunity Company and Alberta's Treasury Branches could become more actively involved in student summer business start-ups.

Finally, the Alberta Department of Education should consider setting up a coordinating body responsible for integrating and coordinating a total package of high school student entrepreneurial training and assistance.

Group 3: Employed, Unemployed and Under-Employed

Evening classes for would-be and existing entrepreneurs are urgently required for this target group. The NAIT Entrepreneurial Centre curriculum was identified as a good role model. An expansion of the Community Futures Business Development Centres' programs into remote areas could fill a void.

The Small Business Division of the Department of Economic Development and Trade should consider establishing a completely self-contained, mobile business counselling service to concentrate on those areas most remote from existing services of this kind. Also, the Youth Business Start-Up Program could be initiated in northern Alberta, offering financial assistance in the following manner:

- the program adopt the no-academic prerequisites format of Manitoba's Youth Business Start program
- the program offer the $7,500 interest-free loan (for one year) package of Ontario's Youth Venture Capital program.

The need for a northern Alberta "Business Financing Coordinator," was recognized. A facility is required to allow communication between those that wishing to start or expand business activities and sources of financing. "Business Financing Coordination Offices" should be established at various centres across northern Alberta.

Finally, the Entrepreneurship Northwest initiative being coordinated by Athabasca University was identified as having potential to deliver of entrepreneurial training and assistance in northern Alberta. This program is currently in the prototype stage. It is possible that some testing of this prototype could occur in the Northern Alberta Development Council area. Whether or not this happens, this program should be closely observed and monitored for its potential application in northern Alberta.

Professional curriculum planners and a cross-section of business counsellors and business people should collaborate to develop a "Guide to Teaching Entrepreneurialism" for northern Alberta's primary and secondary schools.

A central and accessible Business Development Coordinating Office should be established in northern Alberta to:

- serve as a catalyst to network building
- coordinate the collection and dissemination of information related to entrepreneurialism on an up-to-date basis
- act as a liaison between the supply side and demand side of those involved in entrepreneurialism.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Three broad recommendations conclude the study. They are paraphrased as follows:

- Without consistent effort to get young people, schools, parents and financial institutions to alter the approach to entrepreneurial assistance and education in northern Alberta, little change can be expected regarding the involvement of young people in their own entrepreneurial ventures in the north. Importantly, the business community must be more active in entrepreneurial assistance; trainers must be more thoroughly and specifically trained in the subject area; and, the activities of all who are involved in the process must be much more focused so meaningful assistance can be offered to the various target groups.

- The fundamental stumbling block for youth business start-ups is the lack of available debt capital. It is recommended that a concentrated effort be made to identify new sources of both debt and equity capital for young entrepreneurs and to entice chartered banks to become more involved in youth-operated business activities in the future. It is suggested that some difficulties associated with lending money to young people could be overcome through increased business counselling and seminars, and the use of a wider variety of financing techniques, including loan guarantees and equity participation on behalf of the lender.

- It is recommended that the key to improving existing entrepreneurial assistance and educational programs is to allow practical training to take precedence over academic requirements. As well, educational programs that stress business planning, strategic thinking, entrepreneurial self-assessment and business skills should be put into place.

Any form of assistance in northern Alberta is contingent upon programs being adaptable, flexible and deliverable in an efficient manner. To be successful, programs that require government assistance must do the greatest good for the greatest number in the most efficient manner. On the other hand, to be worthwhile for the end-users, programs for sparse populations in the north must be adaptable.

The ultimate goal of initiatives adopted as a result of this research is self-employment for the youth of northern Alberta. The self-employment alternative is not widely recognized by northern youth. A fundamental challenge arising from this study is to let northern Alberta's youth know that they do not necessarily have to leave home and go to the city to secure meaningful employment.

The following is a summary prepared by the Northern Development Branch on

Red Earth and Area Health Facility Study

Written by: R. Harman and Associates Ltd.

September, 1988

Sponsored by: Northern Alberta Development Council

Background and Purpose

In August, 1987, Red Earth residents presented three briefs to Northern Alberta Development Council on the need for a health facility at Red Earth. NADC assisted residents to organize themselves into "The Red Earth and District Health Services Committee".

The committee hired R. Harman and Associates Ltd. to help with a document to present to government. At about the same time, the High Prairie General and Auxiliary Hospital & Nursing Home District #89 received government approval to plan for an ambulatory care centre in Red Earth.

The consultant provided assisted the committee and the High Prairie General and Auxiliary Hospital & Nursing Home District #89 to define community needs and the type of health facility required.

Objectives

The objectives of the study were:

i. to identify the unique health services needs of Red Earth and surrounding area

ii. to identify important health related issues

iii. to identify through group consensus what services can be delivered and coordinated in a health facility for the Red Earth area

iv. to provide supporting statistical information

v. to present a plan for the steering committee to present as its recommendations for a new health facility for the Red Earth area.

Methodology

- The consultant used a structured interview technique.
- An inventory of health care services was obtained through the use of a questionnaire.
- Hospital and air ambulance statistics were obtained from the Department of Hospitals and Medical Care.
- Data were obtained from the Workers' Compensation Board regarding work related injuries in the area.
- A review was done by the Northern Alberta Development Council of previous studies undertaken in the Red Earth area.
- The Alberta Bureau of Statistics provided population data for communities in the study area.

Principal Findings

- There is no comprehensive, integrated health service available to residents of the Red Earth area.
- Registered nurses are not available on a 24-hour basis.

- Physicians from Slave Lake only visit occasionally.
- There is no pharmacy.
- Community health programs are minimal.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Red Earth Health Care Facility Steering Committee submitted the following recommendations:

- That the Project Architect design a health care facility containing a trauma stabilization room, observation beds for two people, doctor's office, and community health office with accommodations attached to the building.
- That the Board of the Regional Complex assist and support a local community facility advisory committee whose purpose will be to communicate with the board of the hospital and other agencies/organizations on ongoing health services offered by the Red Earth and area health facility.
- That the board investigate the operation of a 24-hour health facility in Red Earth.
- That the board investigate ways of effective communication between the Red Earth and Area Health Facility and the High Prairie Regional Health Complex. Examples would include fax, radio communications, etc.
- That the board on behalf of the Red Earth and Area Health Facility initiate communication with various health professionals or their associations to provide a visiting service to Red Earth. These disciplines should include dentist, optometrist, physical therapist, podiatrist and other health professionals as the community requires.
- That the board formally initiate discussions with the Peace River Health Unit on the scope of services provided and cooperative partnership of acute care and community health care in the Red Earth and Area Health facility.
- That the board provide a pharmaceutical service for the health facility in Red Earth.
- That the board ask physicians in the High Prairie Regional Health Complex to analyze the demand for physician services in Red Earth and area and recruit physicians to visit the facility on regularly.
- That the board investigate the requirements for training nurses in remote locations and begin a recruitment campaign to hire specialized nurses. It is also recommended that the board ensure these nurses are knowledgeable about the High Prairie Regional Health Complex and the physicians there. This will improve communication between the two health facilities.
- That the board come up with a name for the health care facility which depicts the area around Red Earth rather than specifically the hamlet of Red Earth.

The following is a summary prepared by the Northern Development Branch on

Future Health Care in Northern Alberta - A Position Paper

Written by: The Northern Development Branch

September, 1988

Sponsored by: Northern Alberta Development Council

Background and Purpose

In 1988, the Premier's Commission on Future Health Care for Albertans invited a submission from the Northern Alberta Development Council. In response to this invitation, the NADC reviewed former health-related research and sponsored a one-day workshop to obtain input from northern health care providers.

R. Harman and Associates Ltd. was commissioned to facilitate the workshop and to report on the results.

Objectives

The objectives of the workshop were:

i. to determine whether the previously raised issues were resolved

ii. to identify new or current issues and concerns

iii. to propose recommendations to the premier's commission.

Methodology

The review of previous research and the results of the workshop were the two methods used to obtain data.

Principal Findings

The outstanding issues identified at the 1988 workshop were essentially the same as those determined as problematic in 1980.

- New technology will affect health care delivery in northern Alberta. Specifically it will do so by impacting training of health care professionals, inter-agency communications, cost control and record keeping.
- The economic role of the north will continue to grow but this will place an added strain on already pressured delivery services. This will follow because of increased population and expectations.
- Population growth is expected among native Canadians, single parents, the aged and other cultures.
- Improved education and knowledge among Canadians will raise the level of expectation of northerners.
- Cost-justification will become a more important factor in health care delivery.
- Individuals may become increasingly responsible for their own personal health.
- Traditional health care delivery systems are not fulfilling the needs of the north.
- Recruitment and retention of health professionals in the north are essential.
- Fragmentation of current services is a serious problem.

- Changing lifestyles demand more emphasis on prevention and personal self-care.
- Resources/treatment in home communities are often lacking.
- There is a strong need for increased mental health services.

Issues identified at Northern Health Care Providers Workshop, July, 1988

(Note: these issues were identified in a brainstorming session and are not presented in any specific order.)

- The dispersed population and vast distances between population centres in the north cause traditional service delivery systems to be inappropriate.
- Funds are limited for health care and do not go as far in the north as in the south.
- The north is often viewed in a negative light owing to limited knowledge about it and its people.
- Educational institutions do not encourage students to go north after completing their education.
- There is a tendency for health care systems not to be preventive in nature.
- There is a shortage of physicians, nurses and other health care providers.
- The opposition to nurse practitioners is an issue which affects remote and isolated communities. There is now a critical need for medical practitioners in northern communities because of a doctor shortage. Consideration should be given to creating incentive programs, special northern practitioner programs at universities, etc.
- Health care providers require continuing education. There is a strong request for more inservice training and professional information exchanges for northern care providers. Often northern staff feel isolated.
- The use of small hospitals must be addressed in light of medical staff shortages.
- Northern health services are presently viewed as fragmented. Health care rests with hospitals, health units, social services, doctors, etc. The lines of communication are often limited and the patient is unsure where to seek assistance. Service boundaries are obscure/overlapping resulting in gaps in delivery and poor communication. There sometimes appears to be a lack of networking among agencies. This fragmentation is costly and inefficient.
- Mental health services are very limited in the North. Services that exist are fragmented and overtaxed because of shortages of qualified mental health therapists and psychiatrists. This sector will have continuing and increased pressures.
- There is a lack of resources for programming which would allow people (disabled, seniors) to remain in their homes and communities. Treatment options are often limited; yet more and more there is a desire to remain in the community.
- Non-traditional health care delivery systems should be looked at. Systems which are community-based and preventive are seen as the future direction. There is a lack of an all-encompassing approach at present.

- Society does not realize that "health" related issues are also "social" issues. For example, education on sexual transmission of diseased is necessary.

- Environmental factors which affect health and well-being are not emphasized. As northern Alberta develops and its economic base diversifies, environmental health-related issues will increase.

- There is a need for more native health care providers. Remote communities and those with native population bases have special needs which would best be addressed and understood by trained native staff.

- Total planning, both from a physical and social perspective, is not being done in communities. Community attitudes which are preventive in nature are not promoted. The present system does not encourage lifestyle changes of a preventive nature. Acute care hospitals are limited to the promotion of treatment.

Recommendations

- The present health care system in Alberta should be reassessed from an organizational and funding perspective to ensure it is meeting the needs of northerners.

- Mechanisms must be developed to attract health care professionals and to retain them in northern Alberta.

- Students entering the health care field should be provided with orientation programs and curriculum components about the north.

- The College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Alberta Medical Association, and the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses should support and encourage their membership to locate in the north by providing orientation and inservice programs.

- Educational institutions should attempt to de-isolate practitioners in the north by providing regular inservice and upgrading in northern locations.

- The Family Practice Physician curriculum should include mandatory rural practice rotations.

- A new kind of primary health care professional 'from the north, trained in the north, for the north,' should be encouraged.

- Mechanisms for mobile health care which are practicable for the north must be developed.

- Improved methods of communication among health care agencies must be explored.

- Mental Health Services should be upgraded and re-evaluated.

- The future philosophy of health care should be prevention-oriented and community directed.

- Special attention should be given to remote and isolated northern communities in addressing health care needs.

The following is a summary prepared by the Northern Development Branch on

Family Violence in Northern Alberta: Addressing the Issues

Written By: Northern Development Branch

April, 1988

Sponsored By: Northern Alberta Development Council

Background and Purpose

Over the years, the Northern Alberta Development Council received many briefs regarding family violence. It was seen that this subject was emerging as a significant social problem, one with high physical and psychological costs.

Alberta's north experiences a particularly high incidence of family violence in comparison with the rest of the province. As well, the problem is more difficult to deal with in the north because of isolation, fewer transport routes and small centres which do not have shelter facilities.

The Council's recognition of these facts were behind the decision to undertake a review of family violence in northern Alberta.

The report that emerged from this review has proved to be a valuable tool at workshops and seminars throughout the province.

Objectives

Three main objectives were identified for the study:

i. to broadly examine family violence issues and concerns encountered by northern communities

ii. to identify the assistance and services available to community groups working on family violence

iii. to recommend action to help alleviate the problems associated with family violence.

Methodology

Data were obtained by the following methods:

- literature review
- interviews with relevant persons and agencies
- survey
- review committee composed of people working in the field of family violence.

The survey involved 28 towns and cities in northern Alberta. The review committee guided the production of the report.

Principal Findings

- Family violence is a problem in northern Alberta.
- Extensive public awareness and education campaigns are necessary.
- Professionals who are expected to deal with incidents of family violence require training and information on ways to identify violence and deal with it.
- Crisis response teams are needed.

- Domestic violence perpetrators should be charged by the authorities.
- Counselling and treatment for offenders should be court-mandated.
- Legal Aid should consider domestic violence cases as urgent.
- Medical care givers should receive courses on family violence.
- There are not enough shelters in northern Alberta.
- Funding for shelters is inadequate.
- More crisis lines should be set up and these should be accessible as province-wide Zenith lines.
- Local agencies dealing with family violence must be coordinated with community groups.
- Rural Alberta is not as well serviced in the matter of counsellors, crisis teams, shelters and funding as are urban areas.
- Programming is required to deal with issues of sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, including children of abused mothers and survivors of family-related suicide.
- Training and counselling programs are urgently needed in northern Alberta.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Ten recommendations arose from the survey. Broadly summarized, these are:

- There should be an expanded multi-media awareness campaign.
- Regional coordinators for the northwest and northeast regions are needed.
- A shelter should be established in Peace River.
- Satellite shelters are required throughout the north.
- Two second-stage shelters, one in each region, should be established.
- A crisis line advisory body is needed.
- There must be a toll-free Zenith number for crisis line access.
- Batterers' treatment programs must be maintained and extended.
- Court-mandated treatment for batterers is required.
- There should be more local counselling and treatment resources provided.

The Northern Alberta Development Council strongly feels that a strategy outlining the above-suggested action-oriented goals be put in place as a guideline for the development of family violence services in the north of the province.

The following is a summary prepared by the Northern Development Branch on

Postal Alternatives for the Hamlet of Zama

Written by: The Northern Development Branch

April, 1988

Sponsored by: Northern Alberta Development Council

Background and Purpose

The hamlet of Zama (population approximately 200) has no postal service. Residents must go to High Level, 150 km away, to receive or send mail.

The hamlet has had a struggle in other ways in the more than 20 years of its existence. It was viewed, for many years, as a temporary settlement or a 'bachelor' camp for oil workers. Not until 1987 did the province officially register the settlement as a hamlet.

At the time the report was written, some 40 businesses and approximately 100 households were situated in Zama.

The postal alternatives study and report were a direct result of a brief and petition presented to the NADC in 1987.

Objectives

The objective of the study and report was to explore the methods that might be used to bring an effective postal service to the hamlet of Zama.

Methodology

The data were gathered by the Northern Alberta Development Council through liaison with the following Alberta government departments and boards: Municipal Affairs, Environment, Lands and Forests, Provincial Planning Board. Members of the community were consulted.

Principal Findings

1. Canada Post firmly refuses to establish a post office in Zama. The following alternatives were suggested:

    - A franchise operation where the community or a business therein obtains a franchise to distribute mail could be set up.
    - A "courtesy bag" could be assembled at the High Level Post Office, then brought to Zama to a central distribution point.
    - A stamp agent could be named and, in return for a commission on stamps sold, would also collect and distribute mail.
    - The community could purchase rental boxes, bring in the mail, sort and place it in the boxes.

2. Zama is a permanent community with the same postal requirements as any other community.

3. Canada Post is responsible for "improved service to the public" and must also suggest a viable solution to the postal service problems of Zama.

4. The community of Zama is willing to work with Canada Post toward solving its postal services problems.

Conclusions

The report recommended that a standing committee composed of representatives of the major oil companies, service companies, households and agencies in the area be formed to meet with representatives of Canada Post. The Committee's formal discussions with Canada Post should include objective consideration of all possible methods of mail delivery, including innovative systems and, if business or franchise alternatives are considered, then the community should seek financial support from government funding agencies. Finally, Canada Post Corporation should look at the possibility of using Zama for a pilot project where a special remote communities postal service system be implemented.

The following is a summary prepared by the Northern Development Branch on

An Evaluation of the Alberta Wild Rice Growers' Association

Written by: Whyte Reynolds and Associates for the Alberta Wild Rice Growers' Association

March, 1988

Sponsored by: Northern Alberta Development Council

Background and Purpose

In September, 1987, The Alberta Wild Rice Growers' Association presented a brief to the NADC expressing concern because their funding was about to expire. The Association had been operating with funds allocated by Agriculture Canada's New Crop Development Fund.

The NADC decided to fund an evaluation of the Association's activities along with an assessment of the status of wild rice production as a commercially viable industry.

Whyte Reynolds & Associates, an Edmonton management consulting firm, was commissioned to undertake this research.

Objectives

The objectives of the research were:

i. to evaluate the activities of the Alberta Wild Rice Growers' Association

ii. to discover the current status of the Alberta wild rice industry

iii. to evaluate the potential of wild rice as a viable cash crop for northern Alberta

Methodology

Data were obtained through:

- interviews with growers, Association members, industry experts, food processors and marketers, economists and scientists throughout Alberta and across Canada.

Principal Findings

There were three major findings:

- The development of a wild rice industry in Alberta is in its infancy.
- The Alberta Wild Rice Growers' Association has played a critical role in developing the industry to its current status.
- The demise of the Association would probably also mean the demise of any further commercial efforts at growing wild rice.

Industry Development

When the Alberta Wild Rice Growers' Association was formed in August of 1983, essentially no wild rice was seeded in Alberta. In 1980, there were only two known growers. In the 1985-86 crop year, 138 growers cultivated wild rice on 430 lakes.

The Association has played a lead role in showing that wild rice will grow in Alberta. This was largely done through bringing in seed from Saskatchewan; mounting symposia to educate potential growers; demonstrating harvesting; disseminating information; and gathering data on site evaluation, seeding, soil testing, research, and germination. The study outlines wild rice growing and processing activity in other

provinces and in Minnesota.

Importance of the Association

Because the industry is so new, the existence of some body to coordinate its development is critical. A medium is needed to inform growers of new technology and findings, and to be used as a forum for producers. The extension services offered by the Association have been fundamental to the growth of the industry.

The data indicate that it would be difficult for new growers to enter the industry without the Association. With no such body, growers would probably remain unorganized and fragmented with no way of learning about advances in production techniques and processing of the harvested product.

Conclusions

The Alberta Wild Rice Growers' Association has played a key role in the evolution of a new agricultural industry in northern Alberta. The Association was found to be both the nucleus and the catalyst for the development of the industry.

Since the wild rice industry is still at a critical stage in its development, the Association appears to be needed more than ever. Such a body will keep growers in touch with the industry's developing potential, will educate novice growers, and make known the possibilities of this cash crop.

The wild rice industry has proven to be compatible with hunting, fishing and trapping lifestyles while it offers, at the same time, a potential area of economic growth for native people in northern Alberta.

Research data indicated that the Association will not be self-sufficient for several years, but recommended that the Alberta Wild Rice Growers' Association receive extended financial support so that its good work can continue.

The following is a summary prepared by the Northern Development Branch on

Hythe and District Community Survey

Written by: Harvey Research Ltd. for Hythe FCSS Advisory Board

March, 1988

Sponsored by: Northern Alberta Development Council

Background and Purpose

The Family and Community Support Services Advisory Board of Hythe conducted a community survey of their town and surrounding district to measure the current use of their services and establish new directions they might plan for. Harvey Research Ltd. was commissioned to develop the survey and report on the results.

Objectives

i. to identify the general demand for activities currently available in Hythe

ii. to identify the factors that keep people from becoming involved in activities available

iii. to identify additional activities of interest to residents of Hythe and surrounding area

iv. to identify people interested in helping start specific activities.

Methodology

Data were obtained by:

- mail surveys
- follow-up telephone surveys.

A 5-page survey was developed by the consultant and the FCSS Advisory Board. The town of Hythe and district, Demmitt, Goodfare, Horse Lakes Indian Reserve, Lymburn and Valhalla were targeted and 740 surveys mailed. These included stamped, self-addressed envelopes. A 14.9% response rate resulted.

Principal Findings

- There would be more participation in activities in Hythe if baby-sitting was readily available.
- Activities in Hythe are not well-known at the Horse Lakes Indian Reserve where transportation is also a problem.
- Planning to allow community use of some facilities is required.
- Newcomers to the community are unaware of what is available and seem to find some difficulty in becoming known in the town.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The survey identified several ways to improve participation including better communication about activities, provision of baby-sitting services, increased opportunities for newcomers to feel welcome, and better facilities.

Many people showed an interest in activities not available in Hythe. The survey also identified people interested in helping to start new activities. A wide interest in evening courses was indicated.

Recommendations included the necessity for communication, promotion and planning.

The following is a summary prepared by the Northern Development Branch on

Elk Point and District Senior Citizens' Survey - Summary Report

Written by: Elk Point and District Senior Citizens' Survey Steering Committee

1967-68

Sponsored by: Elk Point Town Council
Elk Point Municipal Hospital Board
Alberta Council on Aging
Alberta Municipal Affairs Planning Branch
Northern Alberta Development Council

Background and Purpose

Senior citizens currently make up 8% of Alberta's population and this percentage is expected to grow to 12% by the year 2010. Communities should be prepared to deal with the increased population of senior citizens. In particular, housing, health care, transportation and support services needs must be foreseen.

A steering committee of representatives from government agencies, community officials, senior citizens, and health care and support systems workers prepared and delivered a survey to the Elk Point and district seniors population to find out what seniors themselves think about their needs.

The resulting document provides an overview of senior citizens' needs and aspirations as they look toward the future.

Objectives

The objectives of the study were:

i. to identify the needs of seniors

ii. to identify agencies and services offering programs for seniors

iii. to assess the adequacy of those services and programs

iv. to help agencies and services know what clients need

v. to help clients know what is available

vi. to make recommendations to help agencies and services with their planning.

Methodology

Data were obtained by:

- consultation with local and provincial groups providing services to senior citizens
- interviews with seniors, with service and agency representatives.

A total of 563 out of 724 eligible people responded.

The study area included Elk Point Town, Elk Point rural area, Lindbergh, Heinsburg, Fishing Lake Metis Settlement and Tulliby Lake. The Frog Lake reserve declined to participate.

Volunteer interviewers were trained in small sessions held in different locations throughout the survey area.

Principal Findings

General findings of the survey indicate:

- The average respondent was 70 years old, lives in or near Elk Point, is married, lives in a house or mobile home, and is satisfied with housing in the area.

- Although common health problems of one kind or another bother respondents, most are in reasonably good health.
- Seniors prefer to live in their own homes.
- Seniors do not want to be dependent on their families.
- Seniors are generally unaware of facilities and services offered to them, particularly about those offered by Family and Community Support Services.

Respondent Profiles

The survey placed respondents in five age categories, from 55 to 85+. The largest group to respond was between 65 and 74 years old. The average age of respondents was 68 years. A total of 278 men and 275 women responded.

Most people were married or widowed. Most have family in the area and have contact with them at least once a week. Most live in their own homes. In the entire survey, only five people were identified as permanent hospital residents.

Health

Fewer than 20% of seniors rated their health as average or worse, except in Fishing Lake. Thirty-five people described themselves as in poor health. In Fishing Lake, half of the respondents (15) rated their health as below average.

Seniors' problems include: arthritis, vision problems, hearing problems, dental problems, problems with limbs, blood pressure problems.

Seniors are generally very good about visiting doctors. Those who reported problems in seeing doctors, usually had difficulties with transportation.

Eighty per cent of respondents feel there should be more doctors in their area; 36% want more nursing home beds; 19% want more hospital beds; and 7.5% asked for more health unit services.

Seniors ranked medical-related assistance programs in the following order of preference:

Seniors' lodges
Home Care Services
Nursing Homes
Family.

Housing

As seniors age, they rely more on accommodation with institutional support. Nearly all said they would prefer to live in their own homes after they retire. As they age, there is a higher percentage of seniors who live alone.

Awareness of Services and Facilities

Many senior citizens are unaware of programs and services that could benefit them. For example:

- 40% unaware of lodge facilities
- 58% unaware of home care services
- 75% unaware of Family and Community Support Services offered out of Elk Point
- Low awareness of provincial organizations for seniors
- Low awareness of the importance of having a will.

The surveyors concluded that some effort must be expended in educating and informing seniors.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Fourteen recommendations arose from the survey. Among these were the following:

- Because 40% of the people said they were unaware of seniors' lodge facilities, seniors should be informed through a newsletter, information sessions and centres, and visitor programs.
- Organizations that serve seniors should offer a series of well-publicized workshops or seminars on specific medical information, general information on aging, lifestyle change information, financial planning and social/recreational information.
- The development of home support services to assist senior citizens to remain in their homes should be encouraged.
- Senior centres in the survey region should review their programs to see if they can be improved or better publicized.

The following is a summary prepared by the Northern Development Branch on

Water in Northern Alberta - Technical Report

Written by: The DPA Group Inc. in association with W-E-R Engineering Ltd.

December, 1987

Sponsored by: Northern Alberta Development Council

Background and Purpose

Since most of Alberta's surface water flows through northern Alberta, water management has long been identified as an issue of concern and interest to northern Albertans. Approximately 15% of all briefs received by the NADC since 1973 have related to water resources and their management.

In recognition of the importance of water to northerners, the NADC sponsored a conference called "Water in Northern Alberta," in Grande Prairie, November 4-6, 1987. Council saw the need for a general background document that would consolidate topical information as a support tool for delegates to the conference.

In January, 1987, the DPA Group Inc. (DPA) was commissioned to help identify water resource issues and prepare a background document. DPA was assisted by W-E-R- Engineering Ltd., Environmental Management Associates Ltd., and a number of specialist sub-consultants. Government agencies involved in water management, particularly Alberta Environment, contributed substantially to the study.

The resulting document provided a valuable link to the workshop sessions of the conference in that the report's topics parallel those of the conference.

Objectives

The objectives of the study were as follows:

i. to identify and document key issues relating to water and water management which presently affect or will affect northern Alberta

ii. to document the present status of water management programs and policies affecting water in Alberta with emphasis on the implications for northern Alberta

iii. to identify present and possible future water uses

iv to identify constraints related to the development of future uses as noted in objective iii

v. to identify key potential policies and programs dealing with water management which would be beneficial and practical to northerners.

Methodology

Data were obtained by the following methods:

- committee consultations
- review of NADC briefs
- review of existing literature
- informal interviews
- focus groups
- workshops.

Public input at the six focus groups and two workshops identified what topics would be addressed and suggested actions to follow from these issues.

The study area encompassed three northern river basins:

- Peace River basin
- Athabasca River basin
- Beaver River basin.

Where significant issues affecting the smaller basins or portions of basins which lie in the north overlapped with those of the study area, these were also noted.

Principal Findings

A number of general issues were identified. These included:-

- groundwater management
- community water supply
- farmland drainage and erosion
- surface water quality
- watershed and wetland management
- farm and rural water supply
- tourism, recreation and fisheries
- industrial water use
- native people's concerns
- water diversion.

Groundwater Management

Groundwater has many different users. Householders, municipalities, the oil industry and the agricultural sector all make use of groundwater in increasing amounts.

Three factors have increased concerns about the protection and assurance of groundwater quality and quantity. These are: Realization of limited supply, increased awareness of the impact caused by extensive ground and surface water withdrawal, and recognition of groundwater's vulnerability to contamination as a result of human activities.

Community Water Supply

The concerns of northerners regarding community water supply relate to the protection of water quality, the perceived relationship between quality and health, security of supply, adequate distribution facilities,

and cost.

In the focus groups and workshops, concern was expressed regarding: reliable supply; operation, maintenance and replacement of systems; long-term planning; coordination and implementation; special circumstances of small and remote communities; and protection of water quality.

Farmland Drainage and Erosion

Drainage and erosion are closely related. Although soil erosion can, and does, occur without drainage, efforts to reduce flooding and increase arable lands through drainage have led to increased soil erosion. Drainage of agricultural land benefits the farmer but can result in the loss of wetland habitat and can increase erosion susceptibility. Also, the nature of soils in the northwest contributes to erosion.

The following key issues regarding drainage and erosion were identified: land use planning, control and enforcement; education and program delivery; surface water retention; program funding.

Surface Water Quality

Protection of surface quality is a primary concern for northern Albertans. The quality of water affects all the population and all water-related activities. While industry and jobs are needed, negative impacts on the environment can be the result of such development. Pollution was seen to have several different sources and study participants believe political will must be mustered to ensure that Albertans learn from the mistakes of Ontario.

Key concerns focused around: public education; agricultural, chemical and animal wastes; industrial and municipal effluents and wastes; stronger regulations; more extensive monitoring and enforcement.

Watershed and Wetlands

Historically, wetlands (lakes, muskegs, swamps, marshes, shallow open water) have been viewed as wastelands. They are now known to be important ecologically, hydrologically and recreationally. Not only are they valuable for wildlife and plants, but they play a crucial role in the hydrology of watersheds. This is because they moderate flood peaks, storm flows, groundwater, water quality, and erosion.

Key concerns include: integrated land/water management and planning; control of surface distribution and erosion on public lands; conservation, maintenance and enhancement of wetland habitat; access to and ownership of wetlands, beds of water bodies, and shorelines; public awareness and education.

Farm and Rural Water Supply

Rural water systems are generally not subject to the same rigorous standards as urban centres. Where suitable groundwater exists, long-term, high-quality supply is sometimes affected by industrial withdrawals or return of contaminants through deep-well disposal systems. Where groundwater is unavailable, rural residents must capture and store surface runoff.

The public is concerned about: protection of groundwater aquifers and water wells; guidelines and procedures for obtaining farm water supply assistance; education and technical assistance in locating potable water supplies.

Tourism, Recreation and Fisheries

Resource diversity, regional abundance and shortage, increased competition among users, and growing

recreation and tourism demands characterize recreational water resources in northern Alberta. Northerners want to diversify their economy through expanded tourism and take advantage of water-based recreation, but they also want to protect their resource.

Concerns are related to the long-term protection, enhancement and development of water and fisheries resources, since these are critical to the lifestyle of many northerners. The concerns are: land/water integrated resource planning; water quality; resource enhancement; lake level management; communication among government departments and the public.

Industrial Water Use

Forest and petroleum-based extracting and processing industries are fundamental elements of the northern economy. They require reliable water sources and have, where possible, located on or near major rivers (an exception is in situ oil sands development at Cold Lake). Water used by industry is greater than municipal, domestic and agricultural uses in all northern basins.

Several major concerns with respect to industrial water use were identified. They fell into five general groups: public access to information and complaint process; recycling; groundwater research and groundwater-surface water interactions; water availability and allocation; planning.

Native People's Concerns

Water is a critical factor in all aspects of native life. The traditional aboriginal way of life involves living off the land: hunting, fishing and gathering. Most wildlife harvested by natives is directly dependent on the aquatic environment; fish is important in native diets; and both fishing and trapping generate income. The link to the environment goes even deeper. Living off the land gives natives a sense of identity and self-respect not often seen in industrial and other alternative societies. This sense of identity is directly linked to the belief that living in harmony with the environment is preferable to exploiting it.

Native people's concerns reflect their special philosophy toward the environment. They are: native self-determination and involvement in decision-making; recognition of native rights; holistic approach to environmental issues; native safeguard of the environment; education; preventive programs; community water and sewage systems; identification of environmental impacts; reclamation and restoration projects; funding.

Water Diversion

Water demand expands as the economy grows. In Alberta, most of the population lives outside the major streamflows. Future development will require hard choices regarding water. Two possible strategies to augment water supplies are seen: demand management and supply management.

Demand management includes:

- rational water pricing
- recirculation
- improved water use technology.

Supply management focuses on resource control and includes:

- storage facilities to control availability

- diversion.

A major concern of northern Albertans is that government may have left the door open for future diversions without fully taking into consideration all repercussions. In general terms, these worries relate to: high economic costs; environmental damage; social considerations.

Common Themes

A number of common themes are noted:

1. There is a need for integrated planning and program coordination. This also includes:
   - involvement of all levels of government
   - inclusion of both land and water in planning
   - education of governments, industry and public
   - decentralized decision-making
   - early involvement of public.
2. More monitoring and stronger enforcement policies are necessary to protect the environment and safeguard water. Suggestions include:
   - continual up-dating of legislation
   - coordination of regulatory bodies and agencies
   - accessible information for public
   - stronger political will
   - better enforcement of existing regulations.
3. Public Information and Education

   Information must be more available and up-to-date. All players need better education regarding water resources. There are suggestions for achieving these targets:
   - education in schools
   - enhanced communication lines between government and industry; between government and the public
   - improved awareness, possibly through advertising
   - concerted effort by government to find out what the public needs and wants.
4. Research Requirements

   Little information is available on groundwater resources in northern Alberta. Research and

subsequent efficient dissemination of research results are needed. Suggested actions include:

- involvement of end-user in future research
- inventory of existing research
- adequate funding
- proper research preceding industrial development
- 'one window' approach.

Conclusions

Northern Albertans view water as one of their most precious resources and are willing to spend more money and restrict industrial development to some extent to protect this valuable resource.

The following is a summary prepared by the Northern Development Branch on

Water in Northern Alberta - Conference Report

Written by: Northern Development Branch

November, 1987

Sponsored by: Northern Alberta Development Council

Background and Purpose

A primary mandate of the Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC) is to encourage public participation in the development of northern Alberta. One method used to achieve this is to sponsor conferences on topics of current relevance and importance to northerners.

The Council designated the issue of water and its management as the theme for its activities in 1987. Approximately 221 briefs related to water issues had been received by the NADC in the past 10 years and many recommendations from previous conferences and workshops had in some form raised issues and questions regarding water management and its effects on the development of the north.

The Council met with the Alberta Water Resources Commission and the Minister of Alberta Environment in the fall of 1986 in preparation for a major Conference on water to be sponsored by the NADC in the fall of 1987.

Given the broad range of issues related to water, the complex regulatory and jurisdictional basis for government activity in water management, and the technical nature of water resource issues, the Council saw the need for a general background document to consolidate information and support discussion at the Conference. A steering committee was struck to guide the preparation of the background document in August of 1986 (see previous Executive Summary on Water in Northern Alberta - Technical Report).

Objectives

The objectives of the conference were:

i. to create a forum for a broad range of public input to northern water management

ii. to review and draw conclusions about previous public initiatives on water management; especially to have northerners express their opinions about the Water in Northern Alberta - Technical Report.

iii. to make recommendations based on these findings and discussions.

Methodology

More than 800 invitations were sent to individuals inviting them to the Water in Northern Alberta Conference, November 4, 5 and 6, 1987. Media coverage was extensive. Over 220 delegates participated.

To increase awareness of issues, the NADC sought top-notch speakers. Government speakers, including the Minister of Environment Hon. Ken Kowalski, members of the industry, and members of the community spoke at the conference.

At the three-day event northerners reviewed the issues and suggested actions from the focus groups and workshops, and identified recommendations to be brought forward by the NADC. An excellent forum was provided for all sectors to meet and discuss their viewpoints. A great deal of networking and information sharing took place at the Conference.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Following the conference, the Northern Alberta Development Council re-examined the Technical Report and reviewed in detail all the suggested actions from the workshops and small group discussions. The

following Northern Alberta Development Council recommendations were put forward for consideration by government departments and agencies:

Coordination

- That the coordination role of the Water Resources Commission be enhanced and that the public be made aware of its coordination functions.

- That Alberta Environment in its reorganizational efforts recognize the importance of coordination and establish appropriate vehicles to facilitate it.

- That a directory be prepared for the public which would identify the role of all government departments involved in water-related issues. The directory should list a contact person and a 1-800 number.

- That it be reinforced that municipal and public input be sought at very early stages of project planning, since local input sheds important light on an issue.

Integration

- That a committee be established which reviews Integrated Resource Plans with Water Basin Plans to ensure compatibility of each. Members of the public and local authorities should be on the committee. The Water Resources Commission may be an excellent vehicle to facilitate this function.

- That Alberta Environment and regional planning commissions consult regularly regarding land use and water management projects.

- That consideration be given to water management issues and impacts when new land is opened. Greater coordination is needed between public lands and water resource administrators to ensure that impacts on water resources are minimized.

Public Information and Education

- That Alberta Environment continue to publish reports and ensure the public be made fully aware of their availability. Establishment of an environmental clearing house where the public could easily access information may be useful.

- That consideration be given to writing reports in "layman's terms" or at least producing an executive summary which simplifies and demystifies the often difficult scientific reporting.

- That Alberta Environment, in conjunction with other related departments, develop a major public awareness campaign that would highlight the effects of pollutants, waste disposal, environmental preservation, etc. The concept should be proactive and use several mediums, i.e., television commercials, videos, newsletters, etc.

- That the environmental 1-800 hotline be widely advertised and listed in telephone directories so that access is readily available to all Albertans. It should be listed directly under the RITE number.

- That Alberta Environment continue to work with Alberta Education to develop educational programs for Alberta schools. A heightened awareness campaign for youth may be part of this effort.

Native Concerns

- That native communities be heavily involved in assessing environmental impacts which will affect their communities and environs. Native people should be an integral part of policy and project development especially when upstream industrial development may have impacts.

Groundwater Management

- That active research into groundwater supplies and the interface between groundwater and surface water be continued and strengthened.

- That a groundwater policy be developed in conjunction with industry, municipal leaders, government, and residents of the north to protect quantity and quality of groundwater supplies.

- That a clear groundwater policy which deals with future withdrawals for the Cold Lake - Beaver River Basin be developed within the next six months.

Industrial Usage

- That regional round tables or task forces be established (possibly on the basis of water basins) to discuss industrial policy for the water basins.

- That greater cooperation be developed between industry and communities, and that Alberta Environment strive to ensure that industry and communities dialogue over issues related to environmental matters.

- That the practice of deepwell injection and its implications be carefully monitored and that when deepwell injection is to be used in a new area, appropriate research into its impact be conducted.

- That the continued use of potable groundwater and non-flowing surface water for industrial purposes be seriously restrained. Community and agricultural use must be a priority.

- That water quality monitoring continue and that strong enforcement of the regulations result when a transgression occurs. Water quality should be paramount in the management of northern waters.

Surface Water Quality

- That a major study on non-point pollutants (i.e., fertilizers, pesticides, run-off, etc.) and their impacts on northern rivers and water supplies be conducted by Alberta Environment in conjunction with appropriate departments.

- That laboratory facilities be located in regional centres throughout the north.

Wetlands

- That the Water Resources Commission move ahead and complete a provincial policy on wetlands within the next two years. Immediate release of its wetland inventory should also be considered.

Research

- That the concept of zero-discharge versus assimilative discharge versus zero-discharge of persistent toxins, should be investigated and a committee representative of all sectors - industry, government, local government, native peoples and the general public - be established to determine a provincial policy. This policy should be in place within the next three years.

- That research into decreasing pollutants from pulp mills, oil sands plants and any other applicable heavy industry be conducted to maintain the quality and quantity of surface water supplies.

- That Alberta Environment continue with an active data collection and research program and that water basin and sub-basin planning be stepped up in order to complete the northern basin studies within the next three years.

Funding

- That a consultative program be worked out with the communities, and that funds be released based upon an agreed-to schedule.

- That supplementary funding for water and sewer systems to meet special needs in remote and isolated communities be continued along with the development of training programs for service personnel.

- That funding programs for on-farm water supplies be continued through the cooperation of PFRA, Alberta Agriculture and Alberta Education.

- That Alberta Environment substantially increase its funding for drainage and erosion programs in northern Alberta.

Jurisdictional Agreements

- That Alberta Environment enter into necessary jurisdictional agreements with British Columbia and the Northwest Territories governments within three years.

Water Diversion

- That major water diversion projects involving inter-basin transfers not take place.

The following is a summary prepared by the Northern Development Branch on

Downtown Revitalization in Northern Alberta - Symposium Report

Written by: Northern Development Branch

September, 1987

Sponsored by: Peace River Board of Trade
Canada/Alberta Northern Development Agreement

Background and Purpose

When members of the Peace River Board of Trade realized that the town was not growing very quickly, they decided that they would look into the benefits of downtown revitalization. They also planned to discover how this type of rejuvenation program could be implemented.

They hosted a symposium to explore these things and invited people from neighboring towns to attend so that they too could share in the learning experience.

The Symposium Report has been widely distributed and much used.

Objectives

The Symposium's objective was to discover and explore ideas for downtown revitalization through the experience of people in other communities.

Principal Findings

Delegates discussed the roles of the business community, the local government, and the provincial government. The following necessary actions and activities were among those identified:

- All stakeholders must cooperate, communicate, make a commitment and continue to work for revitalization.
- It is important to create and promote an image for the town.
- It is essential to be innovative.
- Resources and strengths must be recognized and capitalized on.
- Planning is key.
- Facilities already in place must be maintained.
- Townspeople must develop and maintain a pride in their community.
- Leadership and motivation are necessary.
- Funding sources must be discovered and funding must actively be sought.
- New development should be sought.

Conclusions

The concerns and ideas presented in the symposium were very insightful and helpful. This information is expected to stimulate downtown revitalization throughout northern Alberta.